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**TODAY**  
**10P**

## Major to call May 1 election today

### Presidential style for marathon campaign

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR will announce today that the General Election is on May 1 and pave the way for a marathon campaign that he hopes will turn round the biggest deficit ever faced by a governing party as it goes to the polls.

Cabinet ministers have been summoned to Downing Street to be told of the Prime Minister's plans this morning. Then he will go to Buckingham Palace to ask the Queen for a dissolution of Parliament, probably early in April, before telling the country from the steps of Number 10 that he is about to seek a fifth successive Conservative term of office.

The contest will begin immediately, with Mr Major staging a series of media interviews. He is then expected to travel to the first of his meet-the-people meetings, in the Home Counties. Ministers will maintain the momentum with more policy announcements, including one today from Ian Lang, the Board of Trade president, that he wants to raise £1 billion by selling off the airwaves used by mobile telephones and radio-pagers.

The campaign, almost certainly the longest in political history, will be the first in Britain to include a head-to-head television debate between the two main party leaders.

Mr Major made clear at the weekend that he was ready to break with tradition and go ahead and Tony Blair declared his enthusiasm for the idea. The move confirmed that this will be the most presidential-style election ever staged in Britain. In spite of the threat of a legal challenge from Paddy Ashdown, there were strong indications last night that it would go ahead.

Mr Major was reported to be upbeat now the moment of truth had arrived and he was able to end the speculation. Remaining business will be pushed through the Commons over the next 10 days before the Easter break, after which MPs will go to the constituencies to do battle.

Mr Major's face-to-face debate call was the first important initiative of the campaign and provoked its first serious

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row, with the Conservatives insisting that Mr Ashdown should not be able to take part and the Liberal Democrat leader threatening action in the courts to block any programme if he was excluded.

In previous elections Mr Major's move would have been seen as a gamble, giving his main opponent a chance to strike a knockout blow. But lagging so far behind in the polls, Mr Major has little to lose and has seized the opportunity to take on Mr Blair.

He wants himself and Mr Blair to be able to interrogate each other, as well as taking questions from a panel of pundits and academics. A source close to him said yesterday: "He reckons the media have given Blair an easy time. He wants to have a go himself."

Although the Liberal Demo-



crats do not like the idea, it is possible that Mr Ashdown would be interviewed separately during the middle of any debate so he would have given air time.

The Conservatives are opposed to Mr Major being taken on both by Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown. Brian Mawhinney, who decided the debating conditions with Mr Major during a late-night meeting at a hotel near Bath on Friday, said Mr Major wanted a "prime ministerial" debate between the two potential occupants of 10 Downing Street.

"People should have the opportunity to hear and listen to those two men being rigorously cross-examined and discussing the issues between themselves, because one or other of them will be prime minister at the end of the election, Mr Ashdown won't," he told BBC TV's *On the Record*.

He acknowledged the Liberal Democrat leader's "legitimate" demands to get his views across, but said he was "confident" broadcasters would be able to find a way for the Major-Blair debate to go ahead.

Mr Blair said: "We have of course been pressing for months and months for such a debate, so obviously we welcome this, assuming that it is a serious offer. I am perfectly happy with the idea of a debate between the Prime Minister and myself, which is why we have been pressing for it." He said it was for the broadcasters to work out whether or not the other parties needed to be represented.

Mr Major hopes the election announcement will instil the discipline into his party that it has so badly lacked in the last few years. There was another squall yesterday when West Midlands Tories indicated that they wanted to make immigration an election issue in apparent open defiance of the wishes of the party leadership. They plan to meet this week to work out an agreed response to what they see as Labour's plans to weaken Britain's immigration laws.



John Major snatches his final moments of pre-election relaxation at his home yesterday

## BBC moves to accept terms on TV debate

By Jill Sherman and Carol Midgley

THE BBC last night appeared to be edging towards a deal with the Conservative Party over a televised debate between John Major and Tony Blair.

After frantic discussions between four TV channels and the three main parties yesterday, there were signs that the BBC was prepared to accept many of the terms which Mr Major wanted. The Prime Minister demanded there should be no public audience; Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, should not be allowed to participate; and that Mr Blair and Mr Major should be allowed to cross-question each other.

Early yesterday the broadcasting organisations signalled that it would be difficult to exclude Mr Ashdown from any TV debate due to broadcasting guidelines which call for impartiality. By the evening, however, the BBC appeared to take a much softer stance, hinting that there might be a way of giving Mr Ashdown a slot after the debate took place.

Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC, said: "We are in uncharted territory and the rules will have to be worked out carefully and, as far as they can be, able to withstand legal challenge."

Both Labour and Tory sources also suggested that the BBC were desperate to strike a deal before ITV came up with an acceptable proposal. The BBC, ITV, Sky and the independent producers of *Breakfast With Frost*, *Paradise Productions*, were formulating rival offers. ITV's bid is understood to be a Major-

Blair debate with a break in the middle in which Mr Ashdown would be interviewed. This is thought to have been rejected by Mr Ashdown.

The BBC's proposal is to have three separate debates featuring Mr Major and Mr Blair, Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown, and Mr Major and Mr Ashdown. It has no objections to the absence of a studio audience.

Sky is said to have suggested having the single Major-Blair debate but following it up with a three-way debate involving Mr Ashdown. Sir David Frost's company has suggested featuring all three leaders but allocating less time to Mr Ashdown.

One possible outcome is that the broadcasters would follow the US example, screening the debate on all channels simultaneously. Alternatively, the debates could be staged in turn by different channels and the recorded highlights be made available to the others.

An aide to Mr Blair made clear that Labour favoured the option in which Mr Ashdown would be interviewed in the middle of the main debate instead of being part of it. The party also called for audience participation, with the audience being allowed to ask questions and take make their views heard.

The Liberal Democrats said they would agree to a three-way debate between the three leaders, or three separate debates. They conceded that the two debates with Mr Ashdown could be shorter than the one between the two main leaders.

### NatWest faces inquiry pressure

Criminal investigators and civil City watchdogs will come under mounting pressure this week to launch formal investigations into the £90 million "blackhole" uncovered at the investment banking arm of NatWest two weeks ago. **Page 48**

### Thousands in Brussels protest

The pain of the Continent's unemployment spilled on to the streets of Brussels yesterday when tens of thousands marched in protest at the European Union's failure to protect jobs in the face of the free market. **Page 14**

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## Europe ready to send token force to Albania

By Charles Bremner in Apeldoorn and Michael Evans

THE European Union held back yesterday from any large-scale intervention in Albania, agreeing only to offer a team of civil and military advisers.

An advance team of officials will leave for Tirana today to prepare for the advisory mission, whose aim will be to help with building up Albania's police and military infrastructure.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, meeting his European counterparts at Apeldoorn in the Netherlands, said the number of advisers would be "dozens", not hundreds.

The 15 ministers were divided, with some favouring military intervention to restore order and others who backed a more modest approach.

Despite pressure from Italy and France to send a military peacekeeping force of up to 3,000 troops to secure Tirana airport, government buildings

and foreign embassies, Britain, Germany and Sweden insisted on only a limited EU mission.

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, warned that Europe could not get involved "in another adventure". Yugoslavia had been a lesson for the EU, he said.

The ministers had met after a request by the Albanian Government for troops to restore order, and a suggestion by Franz Vranitzky, the former Austrian Chancellor who headed a team sent to Albania by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, that troops and police be sent in to quell the violence.

In London, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said there were no plans to send troops. Speaking on GMTV's *Sunday Programme*, he said: "I am not in a hurry to offer up new targets for these irresponsible people."

The Foreign Office reported that 40 British still remained in Albania, about 15 of whom were unaccounted for. But some of them may have left without reporting to the British Embassy, the Foreign Office said.

As the foreign ministers met in Apeldoorn, American Marines stormed out of CH53 Super Stallion helicopters onto Golem Beach six miles south of the Albanian port of Durres to rescue American, Turkish and Italian citizens from the continuing anarchy.

Two Sea Stallions landed on ships standing by in the Adriatic. The Marines, who carried automatic rifles, anti-tank weapons and night-vision goggles, used rifle-burns to beat off Albanians trying to board the aircraft to escape anarchy.

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## Cameras net snooze view of the world

By Nick Nuttall and Michael Horsnell

LIVE action from the centre of Britain's oldest recorded town is being secretly relayed to a potential audience of 77 million surfers of the Internet around the globe.

Anyone with a computer may now thrill to the footage of shoppers, delivery vans, the occasional drunk, wandering cat and patrolling police officer in Trinity Square, Col-



Colchester: the way it looks to surfers

chester. The development is the latest and, some say, the least sparkling, aspect of a growing pastime of computer voyeurism.

Cameras are being aimed at waters in California, Brazilian beaches and the slopes of ski resorts so that visitors can check out the surf, see if the beach is packed, or whether the snow looks good. It also allows them to watch another world go by.

Some of these private cameras, dubbed windows on the world, are showing bizarre live footage ranging from a busy traffic intersection in New York city, an ant hill, people reclining in their living rooms, and even somebody's lavatory in America.

While some feel these sites hold a strange fascination, others dismiss them as the high tech equivalent of the dentist's aquarium.

This weekend citizens thronging the north Essex Continued on page 2, col 5

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This week in The Times

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**START THE POLITICAL WEEK**  
With Peter Riddell, William Rees-Mogg and Ballot 97: Transport



Tomorrow

**MEN ONLY**  
Alexander Stuart on dangerous liaisons  
Laurie Taylor on academic Don Juans

Wednesday

**HOCKNEY AT 60**  
Richard Cork meets the first man of British art  
Plus: guide to the summer's top 50 festivals



Thursday

**BOOKS**  
Norman Stone on Albert Speer's false remorse  
Derwent May on the letters of Arthur Ransome

Friday

**POP**  
Alan Jackson meets a Baywatch babe turned country star

Saturday

**LEONARDO DI CAPRIO**  
Giles Whittell on a Romeo for the MTV generation in The Magazine



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# Major's new battle cry will say that Europe isn't working

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tories are to launch a new Eurosceptic strategy based on the theme "Europe isn't working" as a key element of their election campaign.

After a fierce battle with Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, the Prime Minister has won their backing for a campaign to contrast rising unemployment and higher spending on the Continent with Britain's improving economic record.

At a meeting last month, the Chancellor and the Deputy Prime Minister ruled out any campaign which could be construed as overtly anti-European. Mr Clarke in particular opposed advertisements which portrayed Labour as the pro-European party and the Tories as more sceptical. He is said to have dug his heels in over certain slogans which were to have appeared on the ill-fated lion posters, such as "Euro Labour, Euro taxes" or "Euro Labour, Euro job losses".

But after a heated debate, he agreed to a compromise strategy in which the Tories could focus on key areas where Britain has been more successful than Europe, and highlight the danger of Labour adopting specific European policies which could ruin it all. One party source argued that significant progress had been made at the meetings: "Six months ago, Clarke and

Heseltine would just not have agreed even to pinpointing unemployment or spending in Europe."

When the latest British unemployment figures are announced on Wednesday, ministers will also point to the dramatic rise in unemployment in Germany over the past six months. They will pepper speeches with the fact that the average level of unemployment across the Continent is higher than Britain, and that if public spending levels in Europe were translated to Britain every family would pay £2,300 extra in taxes. The extra tax burden is calculated on the premise that spending

on the Continent is on average 50 per cent of GDP whereas in Britain it is nearer 40 per cent of GDP.

Senior Tories will then suggest that once Labour adopts the Social Chapter and the national minimum wage, which has been introduced by most European countries, the number of jobless in this country will soar. They will also highlight Tony Blair's inexperience as a negotiator when it comes to settling the inter-governmental conference in Amsterdam, and suggest that he will be unable to stand up to the other nations.

Although Mr Clarke and Mr Major have agreed to focus on the domestic economy this week, strategists do not rule out new advertisements on Europe once the official election campaign starts. They are still confident that the Eurosceptic card will be a vote-winner, and are anxious to ensure that the new theme becomes a constant feature of campaign speeches and press conferences.

Party advisers also concede that the Tories can no longer gain any electoral advantage over sceptical line on a single currency, because Labour's position is almost identical to their own. Mr Clarke has prevented Mr Major from hardening the position to rule out a single currency, and the "wait and see" approach will now be held through the election campaign.

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Heads I win: Alan Howarth, the Labour candidate, in Newport East yesterday

## Defector Howarth is selected for safe Labour seat

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALAN HOWARTH, the MP who defected from the Conservatives to Labour, was yesterday the clear winner of a selection contest for the candidacy of the safe Labour seat of Newport East.

Mr Howarth, currently MP for Stratford on Avon, a safe Conservative seat, won more than 50 per cent of the vote after a crowded hustings meeting in Newport yesterday afternoon. The former Tory junior education minister, who joined Labour on the eve of the 1995 Tory conference, yesterday won 141 votes, against Reg Kelly, a local candidate, who gained 58 votes and Bryan Davies, the Labour frontbencher, with 49.

Mr Howarth, who failed to be selected for Wythenshawe, last year, was put on a shortlist of four after Roy Hughes, the sitting MP, decided last month to retire. Mr Davies' current seat of Oldham Central & Royton is disappearing under boundary changes.

A delighted Mr Howarth, 52, said last night that the result was "beyond his wildest dreams". He said that he had talked to most of the 400 constituency members either on the telephone, or face-to-face raising the issues of social injustice and division.

"I came to the Labour Party because I was angry and ashamed of so many of the things taking place in this country - the widening inequality, the deepening poverty and the neglect of public services like health and education. There are millions of people who share that anger and will be moving across to support Tony Blair, new Labour and the first-rate team of shadow ministers ready to start the long and difficult task of turning things around," Mr Howarth said.

Mr Blair hailed Mr Howarth's win as a "quite brilliant" result. "I believe today's decision is one of the most significant events in the three years since I became leader, because it really does show that the changes in our party go deep," Mr Blair said. "I am really pleased for Alan. He is a courageous and talented man."

Yesterday Ron Davies, the Shadow Welsh secretary, denied any suggestion that Mr Howarth had been "parachuted" into south Wales, a rock-solid Labour heartland. "Today's selection has been perfectly fair and perfectly democratic," said Mr Davies.

The attention will now focus on Bryan Davies. Efforts will be made to find a seat for him before polling day. Once the campaign has started the Labour leadership is entitled to impose a candidate.

It has been rumoured that Derek Foster, MP for Bishop Auckland, might retire and be given a seat in the Lords, and that Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse, the Deputy Speaker, will announce his retirement from his Pontefract and Castleford seat. At least one other MP is considering standing down before the imminent general election.

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## Surfers net snooze view of the world

Continued from page 1

garrison town were less than sure they wanted to be beamed around the world from the camera in Pelhams Lane.

Tom Hunter, 62, a caretaker from Colchester, said: "No-body should be subjected to this sort of thing unless they are asked first."

But Gilbert Morapedi, 32, who is taking a Ph.D in the agrarian history of Botswana at the University of Essex, disagreed. He said: "The view is not private because this is a public thoroughfare. But I can think of better things to watch."

The camera has been set up as a pilot project by Actual Size Internet Solutions of Brightlingsea, Essex, at the office of their strategic partners, Aspects Internet Access, Jamie Clary, managing director of Action Size, said: "Any-one with time to kill would want to look in on Colchester ... it is like sitting in a street cafe watching the world go by."

Phil Pfisterer of EarthCam, a company based in Hackensack, New Jersey, which is monitoring the development of so-called Street or Web Cams said there were now thousands of private cameras relaying live images. They raised the possibility of "pirate" broadcasts from major sporting events, such as Wimbledon, or they could be used to keep an eye on the babysitter from the office.

Recently BT pulled the plug on one camera permanently showing footage of a Cabinet minister's house. Pornographic "keyholes" would also be banned, said BT.

## Students will be told to expect tuition fees

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

BRISTOL University will warn students starting degree courses from 1998 that it may charge for tuition fees at any stage during their studies.

Nearly 20 leading universities agreed before Christmas to give early warning of a possible charge next year to avoid the possibility of legal action by students who applied for places thinking that tuition would be free. All but six have changed their minds.

Bristol will join Oxford, Cambridge, Durham and Nottingham Universities and the London School of Economics in a breakaway group. Other apparent enthusiasts for "top-up" fees, such as University College London, have decided to put off any change until 1999.

Sir John Kingman, Bristol's Vice-Chancellor, has written to head teachers and principals of sixth-form colleges explaining that the introduction of fees may be necessary to preserve the university's quality. However, Sir John added: "I stress that we have made no decision to charge such a fee, but present uncertainties in the funding of higher education have caused the Council of the University to decide that it would be failing in its duty if it did not take precautionary measures." A final decision will be taken in the autumn, when government spending priorities become clear.

Existing plans, which Labour has said it will honour if it wins the election, allow for a reduction of 7.5 per cent in state funding for each student over the next three years. Although last year's Budget restored some of the cuts in university spending, Sir John said that government support for higher education would drop by £263 million by 1999-2000.

Other universities are wary of threatening fees, however, in case they frighten off prospective students. Some believe that a Labour government would ensure that they did not profit from ending free tuition. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, has raised the prospect of reducing the grants of universities that introduce fees.

Some universities, such as Sheffield and Kent, have reversed their plans after drafting prospectuses that included a warning of possible fees. Students on both campuses have claimed that their protests brought about a change of heart.

The National Union of Students has promised publicity campaigns against universities that do not rule out fees for next year. A spokeswoman said the union was still engaged in talks with the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, discussing alternative sources of funding, but would ensure that potential applicants were aware of where there was a threat of fees.

Most vice-chancellors are pinning their hopes on Sir Ron Dearing's review of higher education to persuade a new government to make up the funding gap. Both Labour and the Conservatives oppose top-up fees, but have made it clear that students will be expected to make some contribution towards the cost of higher education in future.

## Labour warns of schools cash crisis

LABOUR will claim today that one local authority in three will have less money to spend on schools in the new financial year, even before allowing for inflation and rising numbers of pupils (John O'Leary writes).

A survey of the 132 education authorities suggests that state schools will receive almost £100 million less in 1997-98 if councillors stick to the Government's spending plans. Metropolitan areas and the new unitary authorities will be hardest hit. Labour's calculations compare estimates of the current year's spending with the plans in the last Budget. In practice, because local authorities set their own priorities, spending is certain to exceed the Government's allocation.

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They are such different men — Blair is a barrister, Major a life insurance salesman

## Television debate is all about looks, not about words

Matthew Parris looks forward to a talent night on television

It's the format, stupid. Who gains the advantage in a televised head-to-head between John Major and Tony Blair depends critically on the setting.

These are such different men. Each possesses what the other lacks. The format best designed to John Major's strengths will be poorly suited to Tony Blair's personal style; and the best catwalk for Mr Blair the worst for Mr Major. Tony Blair is a barrister and John Major is a life insurance salesman.

Do not be fooled by the Labour leader's informality: it is a device. His instinct is to project and he projects with skill and charm. In any gathering, Blair's undertone and body language are not to draw others around as equals, or invite dialogue: it is to step back, put a little distance between himself and the crowd and address them as an audience. This is not a style which sips brandy with you.

Blair is careful not to hector and is never pompous, but there is always an invisible row of footlights in front of him. He can prosecute or defend and excels at both, but what he cannot do is pass the time of day. This is the actor to play the Messiah or Lucifer, Iago or Othello, Don Carlos or the Grand Inquisitor.

So long as Mr Blair retains his command, he is almost invincible. His ability to project a vision — to inspire — is formidable.

His vulnerabilities are of a different kind. There are three. When the first squashed tomato hits the Armani suit or the first irreverent giggle interrupts from the back, or when he trips, Mr Blair will be in uncharted water.

Second, though quick and articulate he sometimes lacks (as professional advocates often do) the security which comes from a real grasp of one's case, and intellectual confidence to it. A format which places him — so to speak — in an Oxbridge tutor's book-lined study, defending an essay which was perhaps slightly too hastily

cobbled together, could have him sweating. Third, like many great orators, he is well displayed at 30 yards. An impermanent camera-shot on the perspiring brow, the defensive glance or the nervous mouth, could unsettle viewers.

Were I negotiating this broadcast on Tony Blair's behalf, I would want him standing up, in a good-sized studio, some distance from a herd of questioners, "chairing" himself, and calling each to put their question.

The more questioners, the better: I would suggest a dozen or more. I would resist the idea that Mr Major be allowed to cross-question him directly.

A very different format would suit the Prime Minister. As a performer, Mr Major operates in two such different modes that he can almost seem to be two separate people. He can chat with us, or he can address us. He is superlative at chatting. At addressing people he is abysmal. Where I would hire Tony Blair to address and motivate my insurance salesmen's conference, it is Mr Major I would put on the doorstep with the life policies themselves.

Locked into a detailed and constructive discussion about any plan for action, John Major comes across as confident, deft, knowledgeable and pleasant.

He possesses the persuasive, man-to-man skills of any great counsellor (or, indeed, confidence trickster). He is seen to best advantage leaning — actually or metaphorically — to-

wards you, drawing you in. It is an intimate manner which breathes conviction.

But set him apart from his audience — place him, blinking, in the footlights — make it "me" versus "them", and the Prime Minister fails either to project or to defend himself convincingly from attack. Projecting, he becomes wooden. Defending, he sounds aggrieved. His throat tightens and his voice rises to an angry drone, like a distant chainsaw.

Thrown on to the back foot, John Major's face freezes and he becomes unable to smile, relax, or even to show real anger. He begins to look like a man who will not own up.

Were I negotiating this head-to-head on John Major's behalf, there would be no stage, no herd and no studio. The encounter would take place in scholarly circumstances of quiet hospitality and I should want no more than three or four questioners.

Major would be seated within a yard of Blair and amongst, not in front of, the questioners. All would be in armchairs, nobody enjoying any special furniture or pride of place. The ambience would be that of coffee in the library, after dinner: reasonable men and women trying to sort out difficult matters.

And I should insist that Major be permitted to put direct questions himself to Blair. Major's tone would be relentlessly affable. He would simply ignore finger-wagging or censorious behaviour from Blair as though above it, his attitude that of a senior colleague, trying (with-out patronising) to explain to a rather chippy junior that things were not as simple as he supposed. If John Major could carry that armchair in his imagination, and address us from it regardless of his real surroundings, he will always carry conviction. And so long as Tony Blair can feel that spotlight and see that audience, he will give his best, even from an armchair.



Major can chat with us, or he can address us. He is superlative at chatting. At addressing he is abysmal



Blair can prosecute or defend and excels at both, but what he cannot do is pass the time of day

## Pitfalls line the American way

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IT IS 37 years since Richard Nixon lost the first televised presidential debate in American history, but his performance has haunted candidates for the White House ever since.

While British politicians are more accustomed to the challenges of parliamentary questions, the risks of presidential-style televised debate are manifold. The American techniques are certain to be under the closest scrutiny by John Major, Tony Blair and their image consultants.

The 1960 studio exchange between Mr Nixon and John Kennedy, viewed by 70 million Americans, not merely defined every future campaign but offered television an unprecedented opportunity to create a lasting perception of the candidate. In stark contrast to his sun-tanned and relaxed Democratic opponent, a pallid Mr Nixon appeared on the set eight pounds underweight from a stay in

hospital and perspiring heavily under the studio lights. His make-up barely concealing the shadow of a beard, which led one wit to dub him Lazy Shave, the Nixon package contributed to an overall impression of the Republican as sinister and shifty-eyed.

To make matters worse, Mr Nixon had injured his knee as he stepped from the limousine, forcing him to shift weight to minimise the pain. As he leaned forward on the podium, the ill-fitting grey suit which blended with the backdrop, fell forward on one shoulder. He glanced repeatedly at a clock off stage.

On the advice of a television producer, Mr Kennedy, dressed in a fitted blue suit, maintained eye contact with the camera and had trimmed his bushy hair to counter criticism that he was too young to lead the nation. Those who heard the debate on radio felt that Mr Nixon had won. For the television audience, how-

ever, Mr Kennedy was the clear victor. The Republican never recovered while Kennedy's support multiplied from that moment.

Preparation for the presidential debates has since become a grand production worthy of Hollywood. Aware of the overwhelming power of television, candidates jockey for visual advantage in pre-debate negotiations. In 1960, discussion had centred on the temperature in the studio. Nixon aides had argued that thermostats be turned down to lessen their candidate's tendency to sweat. The Kennedy men had increased the heat.

Throughout this century, the taller candidate has always been the safest bet to win the election. Facing Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter used every means at his disposal to reduce his opponent's 3½-inch height advantage. He is even reported to have worn lifts in his shoes during the debates.

## Call to arms for longest battle

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE countdown to a May 1 election is under way. John Major will fire the starting gun today for the longest election campaign in living memory. There will be 44 days between the calling of the election and polling day. The only comparable gap was in 1945, when the election took place 41 days after being announced.

Mr Major put his party on an election footing at the weekend. After his visit to Buckingham Palace today, ministers will hit the ground running. Apart from a break over Easter to give the voters a rest, there will be six weeks of unrelenting campaigning.

To haul back his poll deficit Mr Major has assembled a big personal campaign team. It emerged yesterday that Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare will assist in the organisation of all his evening events, including the rallies.

Ministers are keen to get the Commons up quickly. After the election announcement the whips will agree on which Bills can be got through quickly.

But Westminster has been in limbo for days. Although the formal dissolution of Parliament may not come until early in April, allowing MPs

access to their parliamentary offices up until then, most MPs want to get out on the campaign trail. Mr Major is about to let them off the leash. As they prepare for the battle ahead ministers and MPs will bear in mind the following milestones.

□ March 17: election called. Mr Major tells the Cabinet, the Queen and then the nation from Downing Street. Big fall in crime figures announced. Sell-off of mobile telephone airwaves announced.

□ March 19: ministers will hail fresh fall in unemployment.

□ March 20: cabinet finalises manifesto.

□ March 25: last Question Time clash between Mr Major and Mr Blair.

□ March 26/27: MPs rise for Easter, probably not to return before the election.

□ April 2-3: parties publish manifestos.

□ April 4: Major holds the first of seven big campaign rallies, at the Royal Albert Hall.

□ April 7: party leaders formally take to the road in their campaigns.

□ April 16: nominations close. □ April 29: Mr Major's final rally in London.

□ May 1: polling day.



■ The Times will be off the mark the moment the Prime Minister calls the election.

■ Our comprehensive coverage of the campaign will open tomorrow with an unrivalled eight-page supplement.

■ Read Matthew Parris on the humiliation of the candidates.

■ Peter Riddell on why the outcome depends on 80 seats.

■ How Peter Brookes drew the battle lines as the confrontation loomed.

■ And follow the polls as The Times swingometer measures the key marginals.

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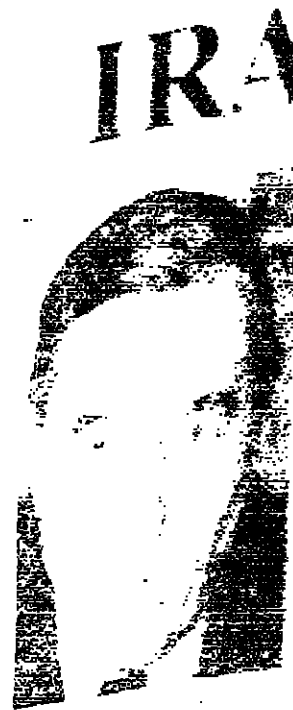


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# BALLOT '97

## THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

### 9. Transport

# Treasury will be keeping its foot on the brake

TRANSPORT has long been the Cinderella of government. Neglected, starved of funds and low on the list of Cabinet priorities, Britain's roads, railways and urban networks are in a sorry state. Since the Tories came to power in 1979 there have been 11 Transport Secretaries, staying an average of only 18 months. The department is demoralised and confused as the Treasury repeatedly singles it out for a bad deal in the annual spending round. In the last Budget, it was savaged even more than usual, with £870 million lopped off its plans. Indeed, the very existence of the department is in question: the Tories have indicated they may abolish it, and Labour is said to be considering its amalgamation with the environment department.

Yet transport is an issue that arouses strong passions among voters. The motorists' lobby — which includes anyone who owns a car — is strong and angry at the state of Britain's crumbling motorways and bridges, the congestion now estimated to cost business £19 billion a year, and the cuts in road building. Rail enthusiasts are even angrier. Rail privatisation, the most complex and controversial of all the state sell-offs, has been bitterly opposed from its inception by many Conservative as well as Labour supporters. The form, as well as the philosophy, has been questioned, the bureaucratic difficulties protracted and the results yet to win over most rail users.

Transport is also caught in the crossfire between opposing interests. The rise of the environmental movement has in its sights the backbone of Britain's transport system: private cars and lorries. Once seen by Tories as the symbol of individual choice and affluence, the car is now the enemy to green activists. Road building threatens the interests of homeowners and the countryside. Car pollution is a main cause of urban noise, dirt, rising respiratory illness and environmental damage. The rise in car ownership is blamed for the decline in public transport, especially in the countryside, the construction of out-of-town shopping centres which are killing the heart of many towns, and traffic congestion.

The Conservatives have found that traditional friends such as motorists lobbies have become liabilities; the influence they had on the Department of Transport's policies is blamed for the under-

Road traffic has increased sixfold over the past 40 years and is likely to double again in the next 20. And reducing demand by price — whether it be raising taxes on fuel, banning cars from city centres, or introducing charges for motorway use — runs into sharp opposition.

The problem for the Tories is that having downplayed or downgraded public transport for so long, they cannot easily now turn against private motoring as there is little alternative. The failure to invest in rail has been so great, especially in the London Underground, that privatisation was seen as the only way to get money for the urgently needed infrastructure upgrade. But the benefits are yet to flow, and will hardly affect road traffic. The Tories, pressing environmental credentials, are trying to revive

cycling and even walking — but though popular, such gestures are marginal to getting Britain moving again.

Labour, traditionally the champion of public provision, is caught on another dilemma: cost. It opposes rail privatisation but cannot afford to buy back a national system and knows that Treasury constraints will never allow rail to become an attractive alternative to road. The Underground presents a classic problem: privatisation is anathema, but higher taxes have been ruled out and private finance initiatives — now finding favour with Labour — will not be enough to revamp a dilapidated system.

Labour also suffers from lack of political attention to transport. It, too, has run through its spokesmen rapidly. Andrew Smith, who recently succeeded Clare Short, has yet to establish his authority. Glenda Jackson, part of the transport team, is better known but is shrill and reactive. The party that made much of its opposition to rail privatisation lacks consistency in formulating an alternative. It has also failed to make an impression on another issue where Tory ideology has brought disaster: bus deregulation. The impression has been given that the running has been left to road protesters. Save Our Railways and environmentalists. In a recent poll of 1,000 people, 6 per cent recognised the road protester known as Swampy, 3 per cent recognised Sir George Young and not one person could identify Andrew Smith.

Leading article, page 21

## Tory years of neglect have taken a heavy toll

EVEN the Conservatives would concede that Britain's transport is poor. Britain has some of Europe's most congested roads, expensive public transport and most dilapidated road and rail infrastructure. Traffic speeds in big cities are hardly faster than in Victorian times. London's promoters see poor transport in the capital as the single factor most damaging to its attempt to win global business.

### THE RECORD

than £26 billion on motorways and trunk roads, completing more than 400 schemes to improve national roads and building or upgrading 1,300 miles of trunk road. A further £351 million has been spent on traffic management.

The figures are impressive, but the results are not. The Government has, at long last, now admitted what seemed obvious to many: as soon as roads are built they fill up with traffic. The M25 around London, completed in the mid-1980s, is now Britain's busiest motorway. And the faster road connections become, the more industry will use "just in time" delivery to save warehouse charges. As a result, roads now account for 91 per cent of freight delivery. And with the increase in axle weights to 38 tonnes and, soon, to 40 tonnes, the strain on the road system is growing. There are fewer lorries on the roads than 20 years ago, but they demand more space, do more damage and cause more distress to residents than the smaller vans and trucks.

The bill for repairing crumbling and crowded motorways will rise rapidly. The Government therefore has proposed an electronic toll system, finally accepting the principle of road charging. Trials on the M3 have not begun as the complicated technology — essential in a country too crowded to allow toll booths at motorway entrances — needs further laboratory testing. The principle is deeply unpopular and the scheme has been delayed indefinitely.

A more radical change came with the acceptance by the Government of limits on road building. The turning point was the protracted battle over the Twyford Down road to link the motorways around Southampton. Electorally, this decision — popular with the Treasury — was eased by the growing power of the environmental lobby. The Conservatives insist they are not "anti-



Richard Branson's Virgin Group, which is part of the consortium running Eurostar, has become one of the big private train operators, with control of CrossCountry Trains and the franchise for the West Coast main line

car", but in the 1996 Budget they cancelled 110 road schemes, allowing only 114 to go ahead. Nevertheless, even existing road schemes are now arousing furious opposition. The most controversial was the Newbury bypass, and the eviction of protesters from trees and tunnels along the route cost millions of pounds.

Since the 1992 election the Transport Department has been preoccupied with rail privatisation. Dismissed by the late Robert Adley as a "poll tax on wheels" this has proved more controversial, costly and complex than anyone predicted. It has run into the furious opposition not only of Labour and the Left, but of environmentalists, railway supporters, passengers and many Conservatives. Having taken the basic and controversial decision to separate responsibility for track and infrastructure from train operations, the Government proposed the franchising of 25 routes to private companies for fixed terms. All rolling stock was to be turned over to three privatised leasing companies, and Railtrack, responsible for the network and the main stations, was to be privatised.

This system involved a massive new bureaucracy to franchise the services, regulate safety, protect passenger interests and ensure that the new system penalised bad performance and encouraged competition. All links were to be governed by contracts and legal agreements. The Government set minimum service obligations, capped fares to no higher than inflation until beyond 2000, protected through-ticketing and tried to co-ordinate timetabling.

At almost every stage in the setting up of the new machinery, bureaucracy and confusion led to horror stories. Law suits were filed to hinder the franchising operations. There were delays and initial lack of interest by potential operators. The Government was forced into a drastic writing down of the national value of Railtrack in an effort to speed up its flotation, while retreating from the high level of access charges initially proposed.

Shares soared, leading to complaints that the company, sold for £1.9 billion, had been undervalued. Another row followed the sale of Porterbrook and Eversholt, two of the three leasing companies, which yielded huge profits to the management buy-outs.

Privatisation of the Train Operating Units began slowly, and was marred when one of the first three planned transfers — to a management buy-out by the London, Tilbury and Southend railway — had to be cancelled at the last minute because of accusations of charging irregularities.

However, the leasing contracts quickly picked up in 1995, and some of the bigger bus and transport consortiums began winning bids that brought confidence to the market. One of the last to be franchised was the largest, the West Coast main line, which was delayed because of the need for huge investment in upgrading the line and in new tilting rolling stock. It was won — to the Government's relief — by Richard Branson's Virgin Group, adding to the group's control of CrossCountry Trains and its big stake in the consortium franchised to build the high-speed channel link and operate the Eurostar service. Virgin has emerged as one of the big train operators in Britain, with the bus operator National Express.

Privatisation is now virtually complete, with noticeable improvements in service on some lines. However, South West Trains, the first franchise owned by Stagecoach, caused intense annoyance by laying off so many drivers that at first it had to cancel 70 trains a day, to the fury of passengers and at a cost of a large daily fine.

Rail also dominated the transport agenda with the opening of the Channel Tunnel on May 6, 1994. Car shuttles to Calais and through services to Paris and Brussels built up quickly, and within a

year the tunnel was carrying almost half the passengers to France. The Tunnel suffered a disastrous fire last November, which caused severe damage. No one was killed, and most safety systems worked. But public confidence was shaken and tunnel traffic disrupted, and the repairs are scheduled to take up to six months.

Sir George Young has tried to encourage environmentally friendly transport policies, and is a keen supporter of cycling. This received a big boost when the Millennium Fund announced a £40 million grant for a network of cycle paths. Local authorities have also been encouraged to provide cycle lanes in towns.

The Government's record on transport has been one of neglect, believing that other issues were more important. But the media focus on "road rage", the confusion over changes in rail provision and the growing conflict between the demand for better transport and protection of the environment have all increased the attention of the voters — and the Government.

A new government is likely to appoint a Transport Secretary who lasts longer and is more committed to the challenge than the previous 11 incumbents.

### Next week: employment

### THE POLITICIANS

#### SIR GEORGE YOUNG

Age: 55  
Education: Eton and Oxford.  
Family: married, two sons and two daughters.  
Experience: MP for Ealing Acton since 1974 and Transport Secretary since July 1995. Long-standing ally of John Major since working with him as Lambeth councillor in early 1970s. Opposition whip, 1976-79. Junior ministerial jobs at Health and Environment; sacked by Margaret Thatcher 1986. Recalled to Whips' Office 1990. Financial Secretary to the Treasury 1994-95. Politics: left-of-centre moderate, strong green inter-



ests. Cyclist. Sent children to comprehensive schools. Performance: has challenged the strength of the roads lobby in his department and boosted the cause of cycling.

#### ANDREW SMITH

Age: 46  
Education: Reading School and Oxford.  
Family: married, one stepson.  
Experience: MP for Oxford East since 1987 and Shadow Transport Secretary since July 1996. Higher education spokesman 1988-92. Shadow Treasury Minister 1992-94. Shadow Chief Secretary 1994-96. Politics: technocrat with strong academic credentials and commitment to racial equality. A keen cyclist. Performance: quick rise in the party; moved from Treasury job to give realistic financial basis to transport



policy, especially commitment to restore publicly owned and accountable railway. Sober approach has won confidence of transport executives but generated few headlines.

### WHAT THEY SAID

This is a momentous day for the railways and I hope that, in years to come, people will look back on today as the turning point — the point at which the renaissance of the railways began.

Sir George Young, Feb 1996, after the first rail franchise.

The potential of these companies under private-sector management is substantial. At the moment, rail accounts for about 5 per cent of passenger miles, which is amazingly low.

Richard Hannah, transport analyst at UBS.

We need to change the culture so it isn't unusual to have a Secretary of State who goes around on a bicycle.

Sir George Young, July 1996

You should never underestimate George's green instincts but there is little enthusiasm for giving them free rein at this stage of the electoral cycle.

DoT official, April 1996

For motorists approaching the capital from the West, you may as well put up a sign saying: "Go home, London closed".

RAC spokesman after closure of Hemmerlyth Bridge, Jan 1997

I reassert Labour's commitment to a publicly owned, publicly accountable railway.

Andrew Smith, Shadow Transport Secretary.

Our pledge is to turn this into the best railway in Europe.

Richard Branson, winner of West Coast franchise, Feb 1997

### THE FACTS

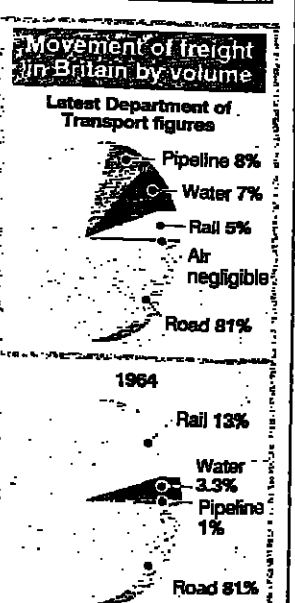
Over the past 30 years the weight of goods carried in Britain has averaged just under 2 billion tonnes a year. About 80 per cent goes by road — roughly the same as in 1964 — but the percentage going by rail has halved to 5 per cent. Pipeline and water-borne freight has increased to 13 per cent.

Total road traffic is 40 per cent higher than in 1983. Personal travel has gone up by 46 per cent since 1979. International air travel has more than doubled and sea travel has grown by 74 per cent.

Britain has the fewest road accidents per head in the European Union — almost five times fewer than Portugal. In 1995 there were fewer deaths than in any year since 1926, although there are now 14 times as many vehicles on the roads.

Road congestion now costs £19 billion a year; by 2005 a third of the motorway and trunk road network will suffer chronic congestion.

Since deregulation began more than ten years ago, the number of bus passenger journeys per year outside London has fallen by 29 per



cent, from 4.5 billion to 3.2 billion.

Rail privatisation has cost £450 million in fees for consultants, lawyers and accountants.

London Underground's investment backlog, £2 billion in 1991, reduced to £1.2 billion in February this year. Train kilometres will rise to 38.75 million this year, with a further 10 per cent increase in 1997-98.

### CONSERVATIVES



**Rail privatisation:** main plank of manifesto. Party will trumpet results expected to flow soon from better services, falling subsidies and increased investment. Tube privatisation to be pushed forward though form of the self-off still undecided.

**Road building:** no new road building apart from motorway and trunk road upgrading and bypass schemes already approved. Money focused on improving network, with better traffic flows and measures to ease congestion.

**Motorway tolls:** possible attempt to pursue scheme, delayed before election, using electronic monitoring. Unlikely to be introduced in next Parliament.

**Environment:** to have greater emphasis. Cycling to be encouraged in cities. More weight given to regional and local views. Panel of experts to examine links between traffic growth, transport investment and economic growth.

**Public transport:** shift to better provision, with encouragement of new urban tram networks, bus provision and rail projects such as Thameslink 2000 and Channel Tunnel Rail Link. Little public money available, however, and funds to come from privatisation or private finance initiatives.

### LABOUR



**Rail privatisation:** commitment to take rail back into public sector virtually dropped. Now insisting on Strategic Rail Authority to maximise network benefits and tougher powers of regulator. Train operating leases to continue. Opposed to privatisation of London Underground, but eager to get private money for infrastructure improvements.

**Road building:** has no commitment to increase road building except small-scale links after exhaustive local consultation.

**Motorway tolls:** opposed but considering allowing councils the power to impose charges on local roads.

**Environment:** main plank of Labour transport policy. Big emphasis on cycling, pedestrian provision and environmentally clean transport. Buses to be encouraged and new regulatory framework introduced. More local consultation on environmental priorities and land use.

**Public transport:** this is a Labour priority, with private investment to be encouraged. But the party is keen to play down its anti-car reputation. More integration of rail and bus services.

### LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



**Rail privatisation:** controlling interest to be reacquired in Railtrack, but it is not clear where the money for this would be found; a national rail authority would be set up to implement overall policy in rail sector. Public funds to be used to support local rail network through local authorities.

**Road building:** opposed to all new road building except repairs to the present network. Car use is to be discouraged, especially for short journeys.

**Motorway tolls:** unclear.

**Environment:** strong emphasis on reducing private motoring with higher fuel and vehicle excise taxes and taxation of company-financed motoring. Tougher controls on polluting vehicles. Tax burden to be on vehicle ownership, not usage, and aim is to reduce need for travel. Cycling and walking to be encouraged.

**Public transport:** main plank of policy. Integrated transport systems to be developed, and ten-year plan on investment priorities, with private finance to be sought to boost rail systems, bus travel and moving freight off the roads.



'Two rounds winged past him, missing by inches,' corporal claims in his memoirs

# SAS soldier 'fired live bullets past Duke's ear'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AN SAS soldier fired live ammunition over the heads of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, with two shots missing the Duke's head "by inches", he claimed yesterday.

Steve Devereux, a corporal in the elite regiment, says in his memoirs that he sent the bullets whistling past the Duke's right ear as he shot at

images of terrorists projected on to a screen in front of the royal party. "The rounds winged past the right-hand side of the Duke's head, missing by inches. He didn't bat an eyelid. I knew it was a tight shot, but I made the decision to fire anyway."

He added that, as the Duke — who was wearing ear defenders — left the training room, "he gave me one hell of a vacant look. His right ear must have been buzzing."

Mr Devereux, 37, who left



Steve Devereux on operations with the SAS in Oman. His book, *Terminal Velocity*, describes a hostage-release demonstration before the Queen

the regiment in 1988, said the Queen and the Duke were asked to sit down in a mock-up train carriage. The Queen sat on the right of the aisle, with the Duke on the left in a front-row seat.

In front of them was a large screen on which terrorists and hostages appeared at random, projected via a series of slides. Corporal Devereux's task was to shoot the terrorists in the head on the screen.

"When the fourth slide came

up it half covered the Duke's back and head. He was sitting upright... Lucky for me, I spotted the terrorist just off to the right of the Duke's head. It was close but I fired two rounds and hit the terrorist."

His commanding officer came over to him and said: "Very good shooting... but take it a bit easy, I don't want the Duke slotted (killed), OK?"

Mr Devereux confirmed yesterday that the bullets were live ammunition from his

Heckler & Koch close-quarter anti-terrorist rifle. He said: "I was standing 15 to 20ft behind the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, firing over their heads at the screen. For the first three slides, the terrorists came up away from them, but the fourth one was slightly obscured by the Duke. The rifle is incredibly accurate."

He added: "It may sound extraordinary to fire live bullets over the head of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, but

that was the sort of thing I was trained for. The regiment really is the best in the world."

His book was seen in advance by the MoD after discussions with the publishers, Smyth Gryphon, but it has taken no steps to prevent publication in a week's time, even though army chiefs are furious about the number of former special forces' soldiers bringing out books.

An MoD official said Mr Devereux would be banned

from any special forces' premises or official functions, to prevent him from picking up new information for any future book. Mr Devereux said yesterday that he was planning a second book.

Mr Devereux, now working for security consultants, dismissed the MoD's concerns. "The MoD likes to be a nanny, but I wouldn't write anything that would be against the interests of my old mates in the regiment," he said.

## Worm bait banned in effort to protect salmon

BY A STAFF REPORTER

ANGLERS have been banned from using worms as bait for salmon on one of Scotland's most famous rivers. The rule, along a 50-mile stretch of the Tweed, is aimed at conserving fish stocks.

Scientists have recommended the fly-only rule to reduce rod catches — currently around 10,000 salmon a year — particularly during low summer water levels, when the fish often prefer to go for a worm. The move will delight purists, who regard any lure other than a fly as unthinkable.

The ban affects beats run by landowners including the Duke of Roxburghe, the Duke of Sutherland, Earl Haig and the Earl of Portarlington. The best beats — fishing rights to a section of river — can command up to £800 per week. Under the code of conduct introduced by the Tweed Commissioners, salmon beat owners and gillies have been forbidden from using worms from the junction of the Tweed with the Etrick to its mouth at Berwick. Prawns were banned as bait three years ago for the same reason.

Joyce Nicol, clerk to the commissioners, said: "There was previously a gentlemen's agreement that worms could be used as a last resort — perhaps if someone had not caught a fish throughout an expensive day and particularly wanted to go home with one. It placed some boatmen in a difficult situation if a client insisted on using a worm. We were concerned that they were being used too widely. Now we have a firm rule and boatmen will be able to refuse without offending."

The Association of Scottish District Salmon Fishery Boards backed the move. A spokesman said: "Worms have always been used for trout fishing by small boys, but most active and proper fisherman would denigrate their use for salmon."

## Organ row threatens royal patronage of Balmoral church

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE departure of an organist from Crathie Kirk, where the Queen worships while at Balmoral, has dismayed parishioners who fear that it will cause the Royal Family to end a century of worshipping among them.

The Kirk Session, the elders who manage the affairs of Anglican churches in Scotland, asked Charles Taylor to resign after 15 years in charge of music at the little hilltop chapel, less than a mile from Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire. The Princess Royal's wed-

ding to Captain Timothy Laurence was held there.

At the heart of the dispute is a 19th-century wind organ donated by Queen Victoria, which needs a £150,000 restoration. Some parishioners fear that the new royal chaplain, Robert Sloan, who is regarded as a modernist, would prefer a new instrument, from America, instead of spending so much improving the old one.

According to one of the wilder rumours, the Queen has asked Balmoral staff to look at refurbishing a rarely used chapel on the estate grounds as an alternative to

Crathie. There are dark tales that this is not the first clash between the Royal Family and Mr Sloan, who was appointed domestic chaplain to the Queen last October.

Mr Sloan yesterday described the allegations against him as "very serious" and "100 per cent wrong".

Mr Taylor, who lives in the village of Torphins, issued a statement through his solicitors. It read: "Mr Taylor has been organist and choirmaster at Crathie since 1982. He has given consistent, loyal service to the church. Recently he has become unhappy about the manner in which the future of the

organ has been handled. "The organ was a gift to the church from Queen Victoria and was by the great organ-builder Father Willis. Mr Taylor has expressed his dissatisfaction to the Kirk Session. They have asked him to resign despite his long service. They have given no reason."

A new organist played at yesterday's service, which was attended by 70 worshippers, one of whom had heard that the Queen was considering reopening an old chapel at Balmoral now doing duty as a furniture store. It could be dusted down and used, he said. "It would

need refurbishment, but it would not take more than a couple of weeks."

Mr Sloan was not at all worried. "The Kirk Session appoints organists and dismisses them. I know nothing about the reasons behind the decision. As far as I know, nothing has been decided over what is to be done about the organ. That decision is months away," he said.

Mr Sloan, from Perth, replaced Keith Angus, regarded as a traditionalist, when he retired.

Buckingham Palace dismissed any suggestion of a rift with the church. "I am not going to get

dragged into tittle-tattle and speculation," said a spokeswoman.

The foundation stone for Crathie Kirk was laid by Queen Victoria in 1893 and it was dedicated in her presence two years later. Her descendants have a private transept built of granite and wood from the old Caledonian Forest in Balmoral. The Prince of Wales attended church in Sandringham yesterday with friends from the worlds of the church and the theatre, including the actors Barry Humphries and Jane Lapotnik and Lady Harrod, president of the Norfolk Churches Trust, of which the Prince is patron.



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## Minister warns Howard over ID card Bill

By Philip Webster  
Political Editor

MICHAEL HOWARD has been warned that his plans to bring in voluntary identity cards, expected to be one of the central proposals of the Conservative election manifesto, will face serious trouble in the House of Lords.

Viscount Cranborne, the Leader of the Lords, who is to be based at Downing Street during the general election campaign as part of John Major's team, has told the Home Secretary that his draft Bill on ID cards might be seen as no more than a "skeleton measure", with the main powers to be granted later on by regulations rather than primary legislation.

A leaked letter from Lord Cranborne to Mr Howard, seen by *The Times*, says that he and the Conservative Chief Whip in the Lords, Lord Strathclyde, "thought it best to warn you at this early stage that we envisage that there will be trouble if a Bill such as this were to come before the House of Lords". Mr Major promised in the Queen's Speech that Mr Howard would be publishing a draft Bill during this Parliament. It was not intended to become law at this time, but was meant to show the Government's determination to legislate if it won the election. The imminence of the election now makes it unlikely that Mr Howard will be able to publish his Bill.

Lord Cranborne's letter suggests that the main objection would be that Mr Howard's proposal was for an "enabling measure" with significant matters such as tests of residence and the fees left for later regulation.

## Watchdog proposes new law on corruption

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

TOUGHER laws to crack down on bribery and corruption in public life will be proposed by the Law Commission this week in part of a two-pronged attack on "sleaze".

The commission, chaired by Dame Mary Arden, a High Court judge, is expected to propose a new single offence of corruption, which would make it easier to prosecute public officials. It will also invite views on whether the police should have greater investigative powers, similar to those of the Serious Fraud Office, to tackle alleged offences of corruption.

In a second offensive, the Home Office is preparing a paper, expected to be published shortly, which will propose a clarification of the common and statute laws on bribery of MPs. One likely option is to extend the scope of the present law so that it includes MPs. The offer or receipt of a gift which was corrupt — for example, because it was intended to influence — would then be a criminal offence.

But the recommendation would be controversial because it would extend the

jurisdiction of the courts over MPs. The attack on sleaze and corruption in public life comes in response to recommendations of Lord Nolan, who chaired the committee on standards in public life established in 1994.

The Law Commission is to publish a consultation paper on Tuesday aimed at making clear which public servants are covered by the corruption laws, and strengthening the laws themselves. The commission, which reports to the Government, was set up in 1965 to study law reform.

The proposals are likely to command support. Lord Nolan said yesterday: "I welcome the valuable work that has been undertaken by the Law Commission with a view to producing a much-needed clarification of the law in this important area."

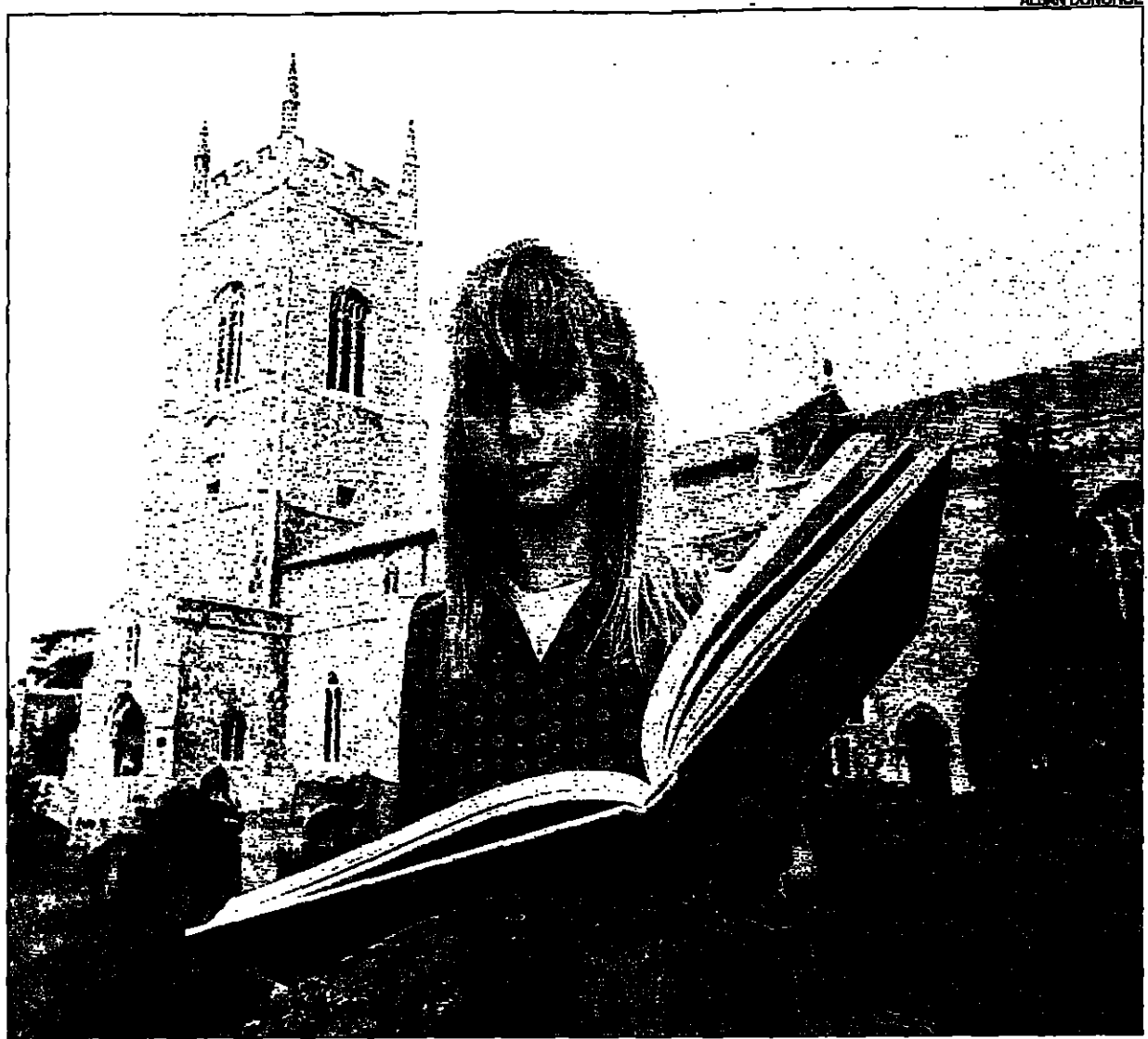
Where bribery or corruption goes on, the perpetrators often escape prosecution because the laws on bribery and corruption are muddled and scattered in at least 11 statutes going back to 1551.

The extent of bribery and corruption is unknown. It is to some extent a "hidden" crime, in that the victims are not immediately apparent. A second problem is that it is not clear who is covered by the laws, a problem made worse with the growth of governmental bodies such as Next Steps agencies. The status of officials within those agencies needs to be defined.

The current law, according to the commission, draws a distinction between public bodies and other bodies, which presents difficulties in the context of privatised industries, in which officials can more easily escape prosecution than those in the private sector.



Lord Nolan, who led the committee set up in 1994



In a class of her own: Leanne Mawditt outside St George's Church. She said: "I miss my friends"

## I'm lonely, says Sunday school girl after 'happy clappy' exodus

By A Staff Reporter

A GIRL aged ten is the only child left at a traditional Sunday school after the others left for a charismatic alternative. Leanne Mawditt said: "I didn't want to go because they do a lot of dancing and falling over and that scared me."

Now the solitary pupil has appealed for others to join her because she is bored and lonely reading books about Jesus without even a teacher to guide her, following a split in the congregation at her village church. A dozen other children once attended the religious teaching on Sunday mornings at St George's in Saham Toney, Norfolk.

Villagers who prefer evangelical worship left the 14th-century church six months ago to attend charismatic "happy clappy" services at the nearby Ashill

community centre. The exodus included the two Sunday School organisers and all parents with children at the church, apart from Leanne's family.

She has written an article headlined *The Last Sunday School* in her village magazine, *The Saham Saga*, saying: "I want to stay at St George's because I prefer it, but I miss my friends. I wish some would come back or maybe other children who don't go to church at the moment could come along. It is getting to the stage where if I cannot get anyone else, I will not come any more."

She sits in a first-floor room during morning services and has company only when her 14-year-old sister, Sarah Jane, is on holiday from boarding school. Her stepfather, Donald, 42, said: "Writing in the magazine was her idea. I hope other

children decide to keep her company."

The rector, the Rev Martin Down, 56, ministers to both congregations with the help of a non-stipendiary priest and lay preachers. He said: "I know Leanne is on her own, but she is welcome at the Sunday school at the community centre. It is bigger and more fun. I don't really think she would be frightened if she came and saw for herself."

Mr Down introduced charismatic services at St George's and the neighbouring St Nicholas's in Ashill after moving to the parishes eight years ago. Last year he upset traditional worshippers with plans to remove Victorian oak pews from one side of St Nicholas's to allow worshippers more space to dance. The opposition led to his dropping the idea and holding charismatic services at the community centre instead.

## Boy falls to death from cliff

A boy aged ten fell to his death from a 140ft cliff at Seaford, East Sussex. His sister, 12, who was helping him to walk the family dog, was treated in hospital for shock.

Cerenna Underdown was talking to friends who went with them and did not notice James at the edge of Seaford Head. He apparently lost his footing as he peered over.

## Lonely end

A woman's body lay undiscovered in her Manchester flat for seven months after she apparently killed herself by putting a plastic bag over her head. Lorna Goldworthy, 60, left a note saying: "I have no one to love — no one cares about me."

## Youth drink line

A helpline has been launched for children who need help about their drinking, or that of their parents or friends. Drinkline Youth offers counselling on 0345 320202 (Mon-Fri, 11am-1pm) and recorded information on 0900 143275.

## Chance to shine

Britain will be represented in the Eurovision Song Contest by Katrina and the Waves, singing *Love Shine a Light*. The group polled 69,834 public votes on BBC's National Lottery Live programme. The contest is in Dublin on May 3.

## Rider killed

A woman found with fatal injuries in a field is believed to have been trampled by her horse. Helen Barlow, 35, died shortly after being discovered by a farmer's wife in the field near Nantwich, Cheshire.

## Catch of the day

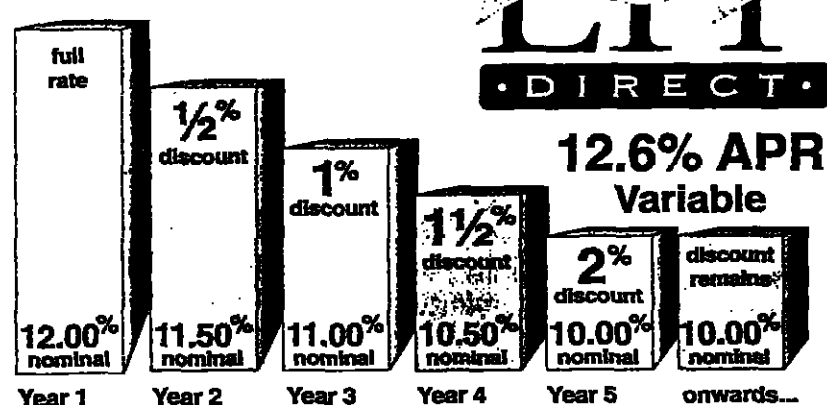
A bride left her reception to attend a Birds Eye job interview, dressed in her white gown. Jennifer Minns, 25, of Hull, had been unable to change the interview date. She is waiting to hear if she has the part-time factory job.

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# Happy ending as a ghost writer returns in spirit

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SCHOLARS are preparing to assemble at the Reading Room of the British Library to provide a happy ending to the story of an 1890s poet who made a pact with the Devil to return "a hundred years hence".

They are planning displays about the life and work of Enoch Soames and lectures on his modern influences, which are especially impressive as he never existed. He was the poignant hero of a short story about a man dismissed as third-rate by his contemporaries but convinced that he would be recognised by future generations.

Under the terms of his pact with the Devil, he was allowed five hours in the Reading Room on June 3, 1997, to look himself up in encyclopaedias and dictionaries where he expected he would discover his place in posterity.

In the short story *Enoch Soames*, by Max Beerbohm — published in his 1916 master-

piece *Seven Aften* — Soames returns to discover that posterity has ignored him, except as an invention by Beerbohm. As the Devil whisks him away, he realises that the final insult is that no one will ever believe he was real.

Now fans of the story plan to honour Soames. The antiquarian bookseller Edward Maggs, who is co-ordinating the event, said: "We are giving Soames something to feel good about." If all goes to plan, Soames will feel as important as he always hoped to be.

Tentative plans for June 3 include a series of spoof lectures. Sir Stephen Tatum, the former Chief Inspector of Prisons and a Beerbohm fan, will chair discussions on topics as diverse as "The Influence of Soames's Writing in Maoist China" and "Soames and the New Woman: a Post-Feminist Analysis". A proposed display of Soamesiana may feature books which Soames never wrote and portraits which a

leading artist of his day never painted.

When Soames made his pact, he expected to see "pages and pages in the catalogue: 'Soames, Enoch' endlessly — endless editions, commentaries". Explaining to Beerbohm why he had to visit the next century, he said: "Posterity! What use is it to me? A dead man doesn't know that people are visiting his grave — visiting his birthplace — putting up tablets to him — unveiling statues of him."

By bringing real-life characters into the story, Beerbohm (1872-1956) made Soames all the more believable. A leading bibliographer and book collector, Mark Samuels Lasner, who regards this tale as one of the greatest short stories in British literature, managed to dupe the literary world with a fake copy of Soames's non-existent book, *Fungoids*. In 1989, several academic American libraries tried to buy it from a bookseller.

The British Library emphasised that negotiations were at an early stage. It has been receiving calls from Soames fans wondering about any special celebrations. For practical reasons, the event is unlikely to involve the general public.

Soames, whose tragic story speaks to mere mortals everywhere, would have been humbled by the attention. As the Devil takes him away, he tells Beerbohm: "Try to make them know that I did exist."



Fact and fiction: Lasner and a 1912 Soames sketch



Leading article, page 21

## Kew plans 'people's palace' of historic treasures

By VALERIE ELLIOTT  
WILTSHIRE EDITOR

A COLLECTION of treasures from 900 years of history may be transformed into a popular cultural landmark if a bid for lottery funding is successful next month.

The Domesday Book, Shakespeare's will and the log of Captain Bligh's *Bounty* are among the documents held by the Public Record Office, where proposals to create a new museum at its site in Kew, southwest London, are being considered by the Cabinet Office.

"In the 19th century the Public Record Office was the stronghold of the Empire, but this place should be the palace of the people. What we have here is 900 years of people's history," Sarah Tyacke, the Keeper, said.

At present it attracts about 150,000 visitors a year, mostly historians, academics and genealogists, but many people do not know where the office is, or what is held there.

Last year, when the Ministry of Defence released the personal records of First World War servicemen, streams of visitors turned up to locate and copy the papers of their relatives. Mrs Tyacke said: "I think all of us here have been struck by the strength of feeling about the soldiers' documents. We also realised we were reaching out to new people."

There are also areas that most people don't even know we have — for example, half a million wallpaper and fabric designs from the 19th-century



An illuminated page from a 15th-century manuscript held in the archives at Kew

Trade Design Register," she added.

A programme for schools is being drawn up to enable pupils to study periods linked to the national curriculum. The office also wants to put

more records on the Internet. About 8,000 people a month are already contacting the office's Web site and staff believe there is scope for considerable expansion. Jasper Jacobs, a leading

museum design consultant, said: "What they really have to do is make the office public. It may be called public at present, but I think most people would think it more a private or secret office."

## Medical museum mixes pain and pleasure

By PAUL WILKINSON

BRITAIN'S first medical museum, illustrating the science's primitive beginnings and great advances, opens next week. The Thackray Museum, in a former workhouse in the grounds of St James's Hospital in Leeds, was set up at a cost of £5 million, including a £3 million grant from the National Lottery fund. The listed building contains Europe's largest display on medicine and health.

Mike Cooper, the museum's chief executive, said that there appeared to be an unprecedented public preoccupation with medical matters. Television dramas and documentaries on the subject attracted big audiences. "We hope we have reflected some of this popular approach and made the subject interesting and fun."

As well as 25,000 medical objects, the museum houses a huge collection of literature. Displays include interactive computers and the history is sometimes depicted in gruesome detail. There is the chance to "walk round" the human body, and a reconstruction of a typical street of 1840s Britain, illustrating the unsanitary living conditions. There are details of crude remedies used in the past.

A section entitled "Pain, Pus and Blood" shows how the discoveries of anaesthetics, antiseptics, and of how to control blood loss led to today's sophisticated surgery. There is a reconstructed Victorian operating theatre, with a model of a child having an amputation without anaesthetic. In a section on childbirth, men can experience the difficulty of carrying a baby in late pregnancy by trying on an "empathy belly".

The museum is based on the private collection of Paul Thackray, whose great-grandfather, Charles, founded a firm supplying medical equipment and instruments. When the business was sold in 1990, he set up a charitable trust which donated £1.8 million to the setting-up costs. The museum will be opened next Monday by Robert Anderson, of the British Museum.



## Comet may have caused ancient city's cataclysmic end

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

A CITY famed throughout the ancient world may have been destroyed by a meteorite or comet. According to legend, Ubar, in Oman was wiped off the face of the Earth by fire from the sky as God's punishment for its evil ways, in a fate similar to that of Sodom and Gomorrah.

An American astronomer has concluded that there may be truth in the

story. Gerrit Verschuur, a radio-astronomer from the University of Memphis, points to the existence near the site of Ubar of impact craters caused by meteorites or comets. The city, which lay in the Empty Quarter of the Arabian desert, had grown rich by trading in frankincense, which was as precious as gold. Described by Lawrence of Arabia as the Atlantis of the sands, its ruins were discovered in 1992 by an expedition led by Sir Ranulph

Fiennes. The craters were first described more than 50 years ago by St John Philby, the Arabist scholar and father of the spy Kim Philby. In his book *The Empty Quarter*, published in 1933, Philby described craters at Wabar, some of the most impressive in the world.

Their existence seems to have been neglected by astronomers, perhaps because they are in one of the most inhospitable places in the world. Michael Saba, an American hospital

administrator and Middle Eastern enthusiast, has led several expeditions to them. "The largest is about 150 metres across, the second is 80-90 metres and [the third] 12-13 metres," he said. "They must have been formed by an object that broke up as it came through the atmosphere."

In 1995 Dr Saba took one of the world's experts on impact craters, Eugene Shoemaker, to see the craters, some 200 miles from Ubar. Dr Shoemaker was the co-discoverer

of the comet Shoemaker-Levy, which collided with Jupiter in 1994. He dated them to about AD 500, about the time that Ubar was destroyed.

Dr Verschuur says: "The evidence that Ubar was wiped out in a cataclysm is very strong. The city walls were blown down and everybody was killed. Putting one and one together suggests to me that the inhabitants of Ubar were victims of the impact that created the Wabar craters."

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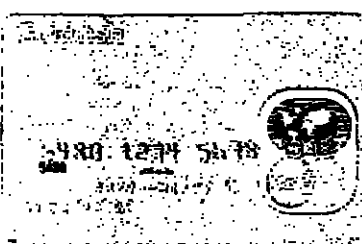
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# French banks kept millions belonging to Holocaust Jews

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

French banks held on to billions of pounds in assets belonging to Jews murdered in the Holocaust, according to new evidence suggesting that French bankers profited from the Nazi pillage in the same way as Swiss counterparts.

French accounts belonging to Jews were blocked on Nazi Germany's orders in 1941, but study ten years later showed that thousands remained unclaimed, their owners having perished in Nazi concentration camps during the Second World War. Today the accounts are worth at least £1 billion (£125 million).

Under French law, all accounts inactive for 30 years must be turned over to the government, but according to *Le Monde* there is no evidence of huge transfers to the state in the 1970s when the 30-year period expired. Instead of rendering the money, French banks allegedly took action, allowing the assets to "vanish".

These accounts disappeared without trace, albeit amid general indifference by the huge bureaucratic machine of the public and private banking network, *Le Monde* said. The report has prompted a fresh wave of outrage in France after the scandal over unclaimed assets taken from Jews that maimed French museums and new evidence that Vichy officials seized valuables and property from French Jews deported to the death camps.

Jewish groups claim that Swiss banks hold up to £4 billion in murdered Jews' assets — the banks put the figure nearer £17 million — but the *Le Monde* allegations are the first to accuse French bankers of similar actions.

More than 76,000 Jews were deported from France. After the war, many frozen accounts were reactivated, either by Holocaust survivors or the families of the victims. However, the 1951 study recorded at least 3,000 accounts still unclaimed at that date.

*Le Monde* says only one such account has been made over to the French treasury since the 1966 law required banks to surrender inactive accounts. The Bank of France and *Crédit Lyonnais*, for example, held more than 1,000 unclaimed accounts between them. No trace of those has been found.

## Neo-Nazis face 'cemetery' court

Marseille: Four French neo-Nazis go on trial today for a 1990 anti-Semitic graveyard outrage which caused nationwide revulsion and prompted a huge protest march in Paris, led by François Mitterrand, who was then President. They are accused of unearthing and desecrating the recently buried body of Felix Gerson in a Jewish cemetery. (Reuters)

The French Banks' Association responded to the report by declaring flatly that "French banks respected the law", but it added that individual banks would carry out research into unclaimed accounts. *Crédit Lyonnais* has already launched such an investigation. However, many banking records have been lost or destroyed in the past 50 years.

Coming two weeks before a government commission begins an investigation into the fate of property confiscated from French Jews, the allegations have led to a fresh bout of soul-searching as France struggles to come to terms with its wartime past.

□ Zurich: One of Switzerland's biggest banks said yesterday that it had offered to compensate a Czech family of Holocaust survivors whose Swiss bank account was closed in 1941 without their approval. It would not disclose the amount offered.

Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) said its review of the case, unearthed by a Swiss newspaper, found it was impossible to determine what happened to the money, but it would offer compensation as a gesture of goodwill.

Gertrud Eismann, for UBS, said the bank was prepared to do the same thing in other cases if former wartime account holders could make a solid case that wealth they deposited for safekeeping from Hitler had vanished without a trace. (Reuters)



King Hussein comforts the father of Sivan Fathi, 13, who was shot last week

# King's sympathy visit to parents moves Israelis

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

IN A gesture unprecedented in the bloody history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, King Hussein of Jordan yesterday braved the fury of Islamic extremists and visited the homes of the Jewish families who lost teenage daughters in last week's massacre by a Jordanian soldier.

His harrowing progress through grief-stricken homes in the nondescript working class town of Beit Shemesh was condemned by a Palestinian spokesman as "an exaggeration" and "superfluous" and by an Israeli right-wing group, the Women in Green, as "cynically using the suffering of the parents".

It came as the ailing Middle East peace process was plunged into a new crisis when Palestinian representatives refused to attend talks on the final status issues, including Jerusalem, that had been due to open today.

Israel's Army was placed on red alert in anticipation of Palestinian mass unrest if building work starts this week as planned on the new settlement of Har Homa in occupied east Jerusalem, which was captured from Jordan in 1967.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, accompanied the king as interpreter. Three thousand Israeli soldiers and police officers were on duty in a protection operation codenamed "Operation Warm Feeling".

In moving scenes which amazed many Israelis, the king, in a suit and traditional red-checked keffiyeh head-dress, grasped the hands of families sitting in tears on

blankets on the floor during the Jewish seven-day mourning period. Some spoke in Arabic to the king, who brought along two of his children, Prince Faisal and Princess Aisha.

Grief-stricken relations offered the Hashemite monarch the biblical welcoming platter of bread and salt, and most praised his gesture. Their children, seven girls aged 12 and 13, were mown down by a hail of bullets on a piece of border territory known as the Hill of Peace.

"The memory of your daughter will live with me forever. I hope her memory will give you strength," the king told the grieving parents of Sivan Fathi, 13. His voice close to breaking, the king added: "Your loss is my loss."

As rain poured relentlessly on the Jordanian leader, most ordinary Israelis applauded what one Jerusalem office worker described as "the courage and sincerity" of his visit, which had been hastily coordinated between the Israeli and Jordanian security services. The office worker added as she watched Israeli television's coverage of the tour: "If only all the Arab leaders were like Hussein, we would have real peace."

Last night, Tzachi Hanegbi, the Israeli Justice Minister, threatened that Israel would expel Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, from Gaza to the Palestinian diaspora if mass violence occurred in Palestinian areas when work on the Har Homa settlement started. The minister also hinted that Mossad agents could assassinate him.

# India makes peaceful overtures to Pakistan in bid to end 50-year conflict

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA will make exceptional overtures to Pakistan this month to normalise relations after 50 years of hostility in which there have been three wars and growing dangers of nuclear conflict. It will seek to open cross-border trade and ease visa restrictions, and will offer to begin talks on a lasting solution to the Kashmir conflict. It will also propose negoti-

ations to end a stalemate in the war on the Siachen Glacier in the Himalayas, the world's highest battleground.

With an apparently more conciliatory government in office in Pakistan and an Indian determination to improve relations, the prospects for defusing one of the world's most dangerous flashpoints have never been better. The rhetoric of war has abruptly given way to a new language of conciliation in Islamabad and

Delhi, with both sides expressing hope that the two countries — home to 20 per cent of the world's population — can agree on a series of measures.

They are to restart the tradition of regular talks between their foreign secretaries. Agreement on the first round, between March 28 and 31 in Delhi, is a result of the change of government in Pakistan last month, which brought Nawaz Sharif to power. He has frequently asserted the need to end conflict

with India. Delhi will propose the establishment of joint working groups to discuss Kashmir and other sensitive issues. It is apparently prepared to give up its territorial claims over Pakistani Kashmir, and to agree to the 1947 ceasefire line — the line dividing Indian and Pakistani Kashmir — becoming a permanent international border. Islamabad would likewise have to give up its claim to Indian Kashmir.

Delhi is ready to demilitarise the

Siachen Glacier, where troops fight at 20,000ft for control of an uninhabitable and strategically unimportant no man's land, so long as Pakistan agrees a simultaneous withdrawal. The 13-year conflict is probably the world's most pointless war.

I.K. Gujral, the Indian External Affairs Minister, told *The Times*: "It is an ambition of my life that we and Pakistan should sort things out. If concessions are called for on both sides, then both of us should

be willing to adjust and accommodate." Mr Gujral, 76, has made it a personal mission to normalise relations. He was born in Jhelum and married in Lahore, in what is now Pakistan. "We have emotional feelings for the people of that country. I look at this problem in a very human sense. We should behave decently to each other."

He added that despite war and animosity at a political level, the people of Pakistan and India were not estranged. India had a vested

interest in a peaceful, unified, integrated and developing Pakistan, he said.

□ Islamabad: Gohar Ayub, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, said a peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute could allow real friendship to develop with India. "Let's get to the core and then live as good friends," he told reporters. India and Pakistan had "both realised the importance of bilateral discussions if they are to witness a stable future". (Reuters)

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# Hong Kong emigrants dump disabled children

BY CATHERINE FIELD IN HONG KONG AND BILL FROST

DISABLED children are being abandoned by desperate Hong Kong families seeking to emigrate before the Chinese takeover. At least 12 handicapped children have been left in one home, colony authorities confirmed yesterday. One 10-year-old girl has been made ward of court after her parents went abroad.

Many hostels were set up to cash in on the growing number needing such accommodation, the owners advertising in local Chinese-language newspapers. Social workers say that scores of young people with disabilities such as Down's syndrome and autism have been placed at hostels so parents can skirt laws barring would-be emigrants with dependants whose care could be a drain on the public purse. Their destinations are Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States. Some parents are believed to have abandoned children before coming to

Britain in the mistaken belief that it, too, demands a large sum to cover treatment.

The decision of families is a personal one and must be a difficult decision, taken in the light of the policies of the receiving countries, a Hong Kong government spokesman said last night. "It is not appropriate to be judgmental

who had always lived at home. By day she works at a sheltered workshop, packing plastic cutlery into polythene bags. At night, say her carers, San laments that she misses her mother and hopes she will come back.

San, and possibly scores like her, are a dark and unpalatable secret of Hong Kong

to emigrate with a handicapped child, then their application will be turned down." Yin is in her late teens and has lived at Pui Chak for two years. She has mild Down's syndrome; she knows her parents have gone to Canada with her two brothers. In another hostel, not far from Pui Chak, are yet more cases. Bing, 32, lived with her parents until they left for Canada. Staff know virtually nothing about her, except that, when two, she suffered a fever and has been mentally handicapped since.

There have been waves of emigration since the 1984 Sino-British agreement on the colony's return to China. Emigration rose after the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989. Between 1988 and the end of 1995, 434,000 people left Hong Kong. Final figures for 1996 are not yet available, but estimates put them at 90,000. Many return once they have a foreign passport that will



San, left, and Yin, left by parents who feared the girls would jeopardise their chances of a new life in Canada

**Families know if they apply to emigrate with a handicapped child, they will be turned down**

when families are faced with these extreme decisions."

One young woman, San, was placed in a home two years ago when her parents left for Canada with her younger brother and sister. The departure, long planned by her family, was traumatic for the 21-year-old mentally handicapped young woman,

in the last years of British rule. There are no figures for the numbers left behind in Hong Kong. Hostel staff are not allowed to disclose details.

"Out of 120 residents here, 12 are from families who have emigrated," says Pong Kwok Boon, director of the Pui Chak Hostel in the New Territories. "Families know if they apply

enable them to flee should the handover go badly wrong. Those now seeking to emigrate are the desperate last batch before the July 1 handover: professionals who have been hesitating about leaving or scratching together enough money to do so.

Michael DeGolyer, head of the Transition Project at Hong Kong's Baptist University, says it is easy, and wrong, to demonise those who have handed over a son or daughter. "Most people in Hong Kong assess things on a pragmatic basis. They realise

that emigrating with a disabled child would be far worse than leaving them because the whole financial burden would fall directly on them when they are most vulnerable and lack support."

Private hostels cost between £350 and £600 a month.

Welfare representatives are concerned that the family link no longer be sent. Ivy Kung, of Hong Kong's Society for the Relief of Disabled Children, said: "Taking care of these people will become a burden on the community."

## Mobutu delays return as rebels eye Kinshasa

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

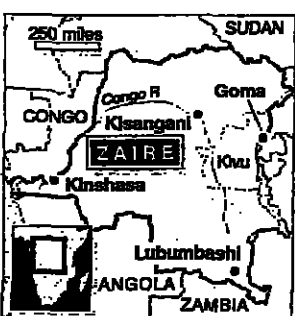
ZAIRE'S President Mobutu cancelled plans to return to the country from the South of France yesterday after rebels marched into Kisangani over the weekend and their leader pledged to send his troops to Kinshasa, the capital.

The loss of Zaire's third largest city was seen in Kinshasa as a potentially fatal blow to Mr Mobutu's moribund Government, and spells the end of the rule by Africa's longest-serving dictator.

It is very unlikely that Mr Mobutu will return home now. A non-government, massive unpopularity and the very real threat that the rebels could turn up in his capital are hardly enticing prospects for a man already fighting cancer, a Western ambassador in Kinshasa said.

Leon Kengo wa Dondo, the Prime Minister, was due to leave for talks in Nairobi yesterday. Mr Kengo is not expected to return to Kinshasa after he was recently overheard saying that if there were serious problems in the capital, he would be the first to leave.

In Kisangani on Friday night, Serb mercenaries fought government troops they were supposed to be supporting after the Zaireans began fleeing from the rebel advance. The mercenaries



fled towards the city's second airport where they were rescued by French commandos who also evacuated about 16 foreign aid workers.

Zairean soldiers leapt into the River Congo to escape after most of the city's cars were stolen by their comrades who fled west. Casualties were reported to have been light as the rebels moved into the undefended city.

Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader whose troops took Kisangani, is now the most powerful man in Zaire. "We are now thinking of going up to Kinshasa," Mr Kabila said at his base at Goma.

The Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation (Congolese Zaire) continued to advance into the mineral-rich Shaba province and a rebel spokesman said that Lubumbashi, the provincial capital, will be their next target.

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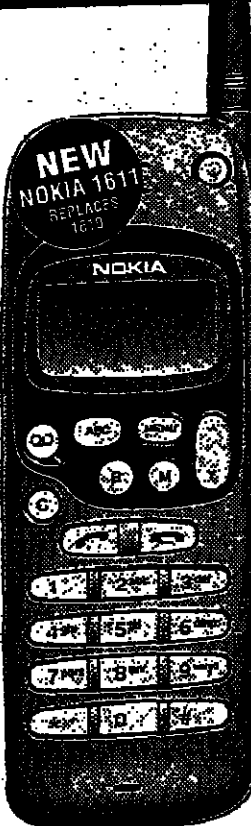
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# Zealous apostle of competition lays down EU law in the marketplace

If the name Karel van Miert rings any bells in Britain, it probably also brings images of European Union inspectors raiding the Football Association or Brussels' threats to block British Airways from joining forces with American Airlines.

Mr van Miert, the Commissioner who polices the rules of competition, was the man behind both of those actions. The London raid, one of several in Europe last year, has confirmed suspicions of abuse in the pricing of match balls and FIFA, the world football body, can expect legal action, officials say.

In the BA affair, the usually



amiable Belgian had no qualms about calling Robert Avling, the airline boss, a liar when he dropped into his office in January. His offence had been to suggest that the Commissioner was gunning

for BA after nodding through rival alliances.

The deceptively mild-looking Commissioner enjoys little favour in Britain, where politicians have charged him with interference or bowing to political pressure to approve bail-outs of dinosaur enterprises in other states. But Mr van Miert, one of the few commissioners with real power, has stirred hostility everywhere in the EU, as he has axed monopolies, resisted mergers and picked fights with governments.

Outside Britain, however, he is usually branded as the agent of "Anglo-Saxon" doctrine, an opponent of "social

Europe" who stops governments saving jobs. In France, where he put the squeeze on the Crédit Lyonnais bank and other teetering behemoths, he is now under attack for refusing to approve aid to the textile industry. The Germans have not recovered from his bitter offensive last year to stop them giving state payouts to Volkswagen and failing shipyards.

The farmer's son from Flanders has also become a villain at home for forcing the closure of steel mills in French-speaking Wallonia. He has just restored some credit by blocking aid to the Spanish operations of Renault

in retaliation for its abrupt closure of its Belgian plant. That action has exposed him to French charges of Belgian pique.

This week, the grumbling will come from America when Mr van Miert reaches out to far away Seattle. He is to launch a full investigation to decide whether the Boeing company's £8 billion takeover of McDonnell Douglas will hurt the European aerospace business.

Philip Condit, Boeing's chief, who is under no illusion about Mr van Miert's potential for causing trouble, pleaded his case in

Brussels last week. Mr van Miert, 55, shrugs off the hostility. The universal protest, he says, is a sign of his even-handedness as he umpires the European playing field.

The zeal of the trust-busting Belgian was an unpleasant surprise for those who were relieved in 1993 when Jacques Delors, then President of the Commission, appointed him to succeed the "ultra-liberal" Sir Leon Brittan.

As a former leader of the Flemish Socialist Party, he had been expected to take a more "humane" view towards job protection.

In his defence he says: "If you accept the idea that the market economy is the best system, or the least bad, then you have to make sure that it works so that our economies can create jobs."

Some supporters are surprised by the emotion which Mr van Miert applies to his crusade. Erkki Liikanen, the Finnish commissioner, says: "For a man of the north, he is very Latin. He gets angry."

British officials, battling for BA, say Mr van Miert's emotions are still those of a continental leftist and they detect an old-fashioned aver-

sion to the commercial success of BA.

Mr van Miert is confident that he will see off a big challenge to his fief. This is a drive by Germany to strip the Commission of its powers over competition and hand them to a new agency outside Brussels. Bonn says the Commission should not initiate policy as well as police it.

Mr van Miert dismisses the scheme as wrongheaded. Why add another level of red tape, he argues, for a body that would probably be more prone to government pressure than the Commission?

CHARLES BREMNER

## KGB man opens old sores over atom spies

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A RETIRED KGB agent reopened an historical sore for the United States yesterday, claiming that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, the couple America executed for espionage in 1953, were not directly involved in selling secrets of the atom bomb to Russia.

Aleksandr Feklisov, in separate interviews with American newspapers yesterday, said the couple were unjustly executed after their sensational treason trial. He described as absurd the sentencing judge's assertion that the couple had "altered the course of human history".

However, the former KGB colonel who acted as Julius Rosenberg's controller in New York, said he had handed him dozens of military secrets, including an early "smart bomb" mechanism.

The deaths of the Rosenbergs have remained one of the most divisive and enduring controversies in modern American history. They went to their deaths insisting that they were the innocent victims of a government conspiracy.

Mr Feklisov, 86, insisted that Ethel Rosenberg had never had any direct contact with Soviet intelligence and that her husband "didn't understand anything about the atomic bomb and couldn't help us".

## Europe's workers march on Brussels to defend jobs

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE pain of the Continent's chronic unemployment spilled on to the streets of Brussels yesterday when tens of thousands marched through the seat of the European Union institutions, turning their wrath on its failure to set limits to the free market for the sake of jobs.

The abrupt closure of Belgium's Renault plant at Vilvoorde was the trigger for what the organisers called the first "pan-European march", attended by union leaders and prominent leftwingers such as Lionel Jospin, chief of the French Socialist party and former presidential candidate. Police said 50,000 people trudged the two miles from Brussels North Station to its South Station, while organisers estimated the figure at 150,000.

Pride of place was given to a hanging effigy of Louis Schweitzer, the chief of the French car company, who gave the order to dismiss the 3,000 workers of Vilvoorde, turning the suburban plant into a symbol of Europe's anger over unemployment, which is at an average of 12 per cent.

The slogans and chants of thousands of workers and their families, mainly from

Belgium, France, The Netherlands and Germany, were aimed less at Renault than at the pain inflicted by the rigours of the deregulated market and what is widely seen as the EU's failure to protect its workers.

"Europe equals free movement of unemployment", said one slogan. "No to a Europe of money. For work and Social Europe", said another. Robert Hue, leader of the French Communist Party, said: "Today we are attending the burial of Maastricht."

The 1992 treaty, which sets tough fiscal conditions for economic and monetary union, has become a byword for what the unions and much of the continental public sees as the onset of untrammelled "Anglo-Saxon" capitalism in the EU.

Yesterday's spectacular demonstration followed noisy protests by thousands of striking miners in Bonn and unrest in France and Belgium as unemployment shows no sign of abating.

The Renault closure, which boosted the company's shares, shocked politicians in Brussels and across the Continent into pledging tougher action to preserve the "European social model", the jargon for the

labour regulation and welfare system which is gradually unravelling under pressure from the globalised economy. Criticism of Renault focused on the company's failure to give its workers any hint of the plant's imminent closure.

Meeting in Rotterdam yesterday, the EU's social affairs ministers called for a code of conduct to ensure a period of consultation with workers whenever a business wants to close.

Some politicians in yesterday's peaceful march sought to distance themselves from the criticism of the EU and Maastricht. M Jospin, whose party was founded by the late President Mitterrand, said: "We need a better balance in the European economic and social model. It has gone too far in liberalisation."

Renault sales in Belgium were reported to have dropped by 40 per cent since the Vilvoorde affair began two weeks ago.

Paris: Several thousand doctors and striking staff at state-run Paris hospitals marched in protest against new rules limiting the money they spend in their practice. They claim the Government wants them to "ration care". (AP)



Renault workers from France join their Belgian colleagues in Brussels yesterday

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Knee injury setback for summit

Washington: The injury to President Clinton's right knee has delayed his Helsinki summit meeting with President Yeltsin by a day (Tom Rhodes writes).

The White House said yesterday Mr Clinton more time to recover from his operation last Friday to re-attach the quadriceps tendon he tore at the Florida home of Greg Norman, the golfer. The President will leave Washington on Wednesday and arrive in Finland on Thursday.

### Bride in refuge

Islamabad: Saima Waheed, 22, the bride who disappeared after winning the Pakistani Supreme Court's sanction for her marriage, is safe in a women's shelter here after seeking refuge, the shelter director said. She vanished after she said she had been threatened by relations angry that she married without her parents' approval. (AP)

### Rifkind rebuffed

Hong Kong: Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, said that Britain would not have the right to "meddle in Hong Kong affairs" after the transfer of sovereignty on July 1 (Jonathan Mirsky writes). He was commenting on a statement by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, that he intended to monitor the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

### Toast to health

Moscow: Russian doctors in the southern city of Krasnodar claim to have invented a vodka that is truly good for health. Containing silver ions and passed through a magnetic field, it is said to have "antibiotic qualities and a curative effect". (Reuters)

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## US plans mother of all warships

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE AMERICAN Navy has designed its latest ship with pregnant sailors in mind. The LPD17, an amphibious transport and assault vessel, which will ferry Marines into future war zones, is thought to be the first fighting ship in the world produced to accommodate expectant mothers.

Such is the Pentagon's adherence to the creed of mixed-gender opportunities that naval architects were ordered to consider pregnant women from the first stage of work on the assault vessel and to make every effort to ensure life on board will be comfortable.

Design notes from the project, newly published, paid detailed attention to safety measures for "pregnant sailors and Marines up to the twentieth week of pregnancy" and their unborn babies. Designers were asked to identify "spaces that are hazardous to foetuses".

Captain Mike John, a Navy spokesman, said that all American naval vessels are now designed "from keel up" for women on board.

Thomas Duffy, editor of *Inside the Navy*, said tours of duty on board an LPD17 can last up to six months, and the design briefings appeared to indicate that the Navy was preparing to cope with pregnancies that started during those months.

"A sailor might become pregnant during a deployment. That is why the Navy needs to take these things into account," he said.

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## MEN ONLY

Our recent series, *Aspects of Love*, found women talking candidly about their relationships. This week it is the men's turn. Below, writer **Tim Lott** exorcises some exquisitely embarrassing memories and, opposite, novelist **Frank Ronan** on paradoxes in the life of a gay man

# Blunders on the way to the bedroom

The best thing about memories is that, with a little effort, you can forget them. Painfully, there are exceptions. In my case, these phantoms usually recall a darkened room where bare desire has been transmuted into naked embarrassment.

Perhaps it is in the hope of exorcism that I intend to make confession of some of these tenacious hangovers. But before doing so, it helps me to remember that the afflictions of the past are universal.

This brings me to the tale of Martin Waterman, a friend with whom I once shared a school desk. At the time he was living with his parents, Frank and Olive, in Ealing. I knew them as kind, somewhat anxious, respectable people who were keen to see proprieties observed. The father would delight in showing off his Airfix models. The mother was a round, shy woman, and a home cook and housekeeper of great virtue. She kept her hair stiffly permed.

Martin had taken up with a new girlfriend — whom, incredibly, given what was to follow — he later married. In order to impress her, he had taken her to see a Russian art film in the West End. But after half an hour of considering the sway of wheat fields, he gave up and decided to surprise his parents and introduce them to his girlfriend.

They entered silently through the half-lit suburban hallway. I recall that there were etchings of cathedral

towns standing above a collection of Lilliput Lane miniature cottages. Then into the living room, where he switched on the light and ushered Mary in.

Ta da! His parents were illuminated, performing quite naked. The 26in TV in maple cabinet, towards which they were both aligned, was exhibiting a single freeze-frame of perhaps the most objectionable moment of a famously obscene hard-core flick.

They did not move, as if cast in a 1950s burlesque tableau.

I used all the tricks; tongue, fingers, whispers, kisses

Martin's mother could be seen reflected in the TV screen. Then, horrifically, Frank gave a slight but unmistakable nod of greeting. Michael resisted the temptation to nod back since this would clearly act as confirmation that what he beheld had truly taken place. Instead, he switched off the light and silently retreated, a different person into a transformed world.

Compared with this, my memories are momentarily toothless. Until I remember them, that is.

One that consistently stabs at the heart involves a woman who, despite a long relationship, I never felt was attracted much to me, but who at the time I always hoped could be won over by tenderness and persistence or, more typically, blackmail.

One night — perhaps because it was my 23rd birthday — she gave in to my ministrations. Her closed eyelids fluttered: her breathing

deepened. She succumbed relaxed into the moment.

I used all the tricks that I had read in a borrowed *Cosmopolitan* — tongue, fingers, whispers, kisses, constructed a fugue; when the moment of completion came close, I felt I had entirely beaten down her indifference, alchemised all the base material that customarily separated us and would loosen the moorings that held her within.

I then became aware that the sound I had taken to be representative of the wakening giant within her — a strengthening, deepening pattern of breathing, rising and falling in volume alongside my own rhythm, had altered. Now it was less reminiscent of the exaltation of the soul and more like the dissection of knotted lumber with an old breadknife.

I stopped. The noise continued, loudening, harshening. Under her closed eyelids, rapid eye movement. After a few more seconds, the snores died away, leaving an empty space into which I could tenderly collapse into ruins.

I have always been possessed of the power to bring forth the quality of Zen detachment in women. One partner, who, despite the bookish, *rive gauche* appearance that attracted me to her in the first place, liked to relax by watching junk TV. She had *East-Enders* on at a time when my libido began to broadcast insistent messages both downwards and outwards.

She eventually gave in to what I can only characterise as my persistent whining: the TV was left switched on.

After 15 minutes or so, during which time she appeared to be advancing theoretically towards what I took to be a common purpose, I noticed that her left hand was still holding the TV remote control implacably. Then I caught the slightest movement of the thumb. I dismissed it as an involuntary reflex.

This rationalisation became impossible to maintain when, minutes later, the same movement occurred again; and I noticed for the first time that

Grant Mitchell's voice was becoming more and more audible above the clamour of my imprecations. "You're bang out of order. Leave my mum out of this. Or you'll have me to contend with for starters."

Or something along those lines.

If only things had improved after the closing credits; but she turned out to be an equally committed viewer of *Children's Hospital*.

I compensate for these moments with other, nourishing memories of women who have seemed more genuinely enthusiastic. But you can never be sure. One, a demure advertising copywriter whom I thought I had driven beyond the frontiers of her reticent personality into impossible, fibrillating, almost violent ecstasy, turned out merely to have suffered a two-minute epileptic fit brought on by too much alcohol.

Alcohol is my favourite weapon in getting women to sleep with me. If caught at the point just before unconsciousness, they are quite suggestible, but drink is a very crude instrument. One particular seducee had been drawn to me by mutual enthusiasm for the literary wino and olympic regurgitant Charles Bukowski. Thus, when she moved to meet my embrace, then vomited reprovingly on each of my knees, I should not, I suppose, have been as taken aback as I in fact was.

Not that I was discouraged. Because, oddly, I retain a sort of addiction to even the worst of my recollections, for all the discomfort they assail me with. And I remain happy to keep on piling them up, blunders and all. This is because once they were the present; so it is the present, that most ridiculous speck, that I am addicted to. And if you are not prepared to be ridiculous, you are refusing to acknowledge what it is to be a person — or perhaps more pertinently, what it is to be a man.

● All the names have been changed.  
● The Scent of Dried Roses by Tim Lott is published by Viking, £16.

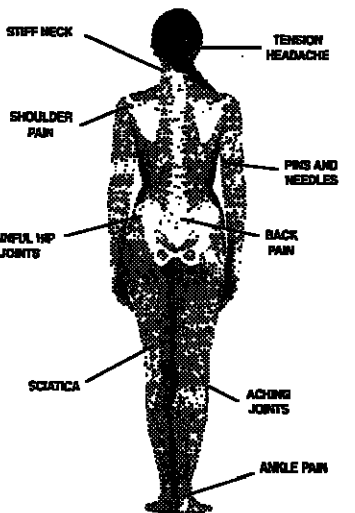
Her snores died, leaving an empty space



Memories can be good, bad and downright ugly — but Tim Lott resists the temptation to bury any of them

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## IN MEN ONLY TOMORROW



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The novelist Alexander Stuart on danger, disorder and high erotic anxiety

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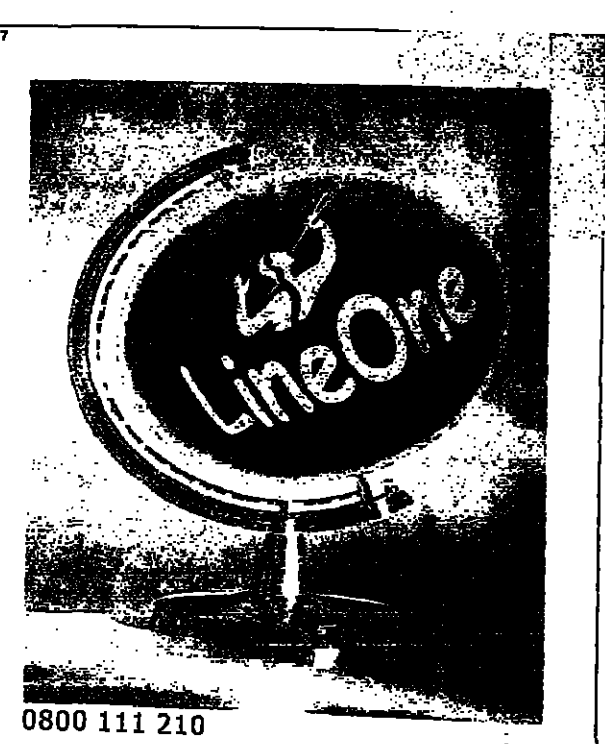
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## ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



### ■ VISUAL ART

A Royal Academy show pays tribute to the Berlin of the great satirist, George Grosz  
OPENS: Thursday  
REVIEW: Tomorrow



### ■ OPERA

Hans Werner Henze's *Elegy for Young Lovers* is revived at Symphony Hall in Birmingham  
CONCERT: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday



### ■ POP

Hey, hey, we're the Monkees — and we're back with a show at Wembley Arena  
GIG: Wednesday  
REVIEW: Friday



### ■ BOOKS

The letters of Arthur Ransome are published as *Signalling from Mars*  
IN THE SHOPS: Now  
REVIEW: Thursday

To the Royal Institution last Friday to hear the biographer, Mr Richard Holmes lecture on the lost lectures of Mr Coleridge the poet, delivered in that very place in 1808. A splendid turnout, a lecture tailored with care, containing anecdote and analysis in equal measure and elegantly performed between the clock's striking nine and ten as has been the custom there for generations.

In the private discussions which followed, the subjects of chemistry and poetry jostled together, echoing the closeness of the friendship between the chemist Humphry Davy and the poet. Afterwards in Albermarle Street the cries were of Science and the Imagination, how they conjoin and what a world there was left yet to uncover.

Enough. There was an exhibition on Coleridge in the library. What most took my fancy was the letter a young Coleridge wrote to his brother: "I have often been surprised that Mathematics, the quin-

tescence of truth, should have found admirers so few and so languid. Frequent consideration and minute scrutiny have at length unravelled the cause viz that though Reason is Feasted, Imagination is Starved."

It was Davy who suggested that his friend deliver the lectures — five courses of five, fee £140 — to the Royal Institution where crowds for such events could be so dense that Albermarle Street became the first one-way street in London. At that time there were lectures on Chemistry, Botany and Medicine but also on Persian Literature, German Architecture and Moral Philosophy.

Coleridge's series of lectures have always been regarded as the biggest flop in the history of the Royal Institution. Thomas De Quincey attended one of them and described Coleridge — with the eye

of an expert — as so far gone on opium that he had "a paralytic inability to raise the upper jaw from the lower". The poet skipped some lectures, turned up at others with that most shaming excuse that he had lost his notes somewhere along the way, but finally he delivered 18 of the lectures. Holmes makes a good case from the fragments remaining, that these lectures were as a laboratory for the poet (the use of laboratory is mine, not Holmes's). Out of this apparent debacle came his later soaring views on the Imagination, particularly as demonstrated through Shakespeare.

The part of Holmes's lecture which interested me most was the way in which the chemist Davy and the poet seem to have seen themselves moving towards the same end through their different disciplines. The end was to discover



the one power which drove through everything. Davy's idea, I think, crudely, was that chemical force and electrical force are exactly the same thing and that all other forces come under that

scheme of things. I was told that it is still thought by scientists today as a fertile explanation and it was taken up by Davy's great pupil Faraday. Faraday, I learn from his biographer John Meurig Thomas, wrote down at that very time: "Experiment is the servant of the Imagination." Coleridge looked for the energies of the eternal will through a profound contemplation on the nature of the Imagination. Davy wrote: "Chemistry is professed with a passion of Hope."

The confluence is fascinating and the religious undertow unmistakable. To prepare himself to be the great philosophical poet, Coleridge went to Germany in his twenties to study both the natural sciences and biblical scholarship — in fact the whole range of knowledge available — and he was drawn into the German ideas of

vitalism and galvanism which were setting up a Romantic challenge to the British Newtonian Universe. Coleridge saw Science as a way to truth and also as a great ladder: "To renew my stock of metaphors." He used these with skill, as Holmes pointed out. For instance, when first he met Dorothy Wordsworth he wrote that "her taste is as perfect as an electrometer".

Coleridge conducted electrical experiments on himself just as Davy used himself as a subject — most notably with laughing gas. Davy was also a poet and the careful Wordsworth gave him the task of correcting the second edition of his precious *Lyrical Ballads*. Coleridge's science was perhaps less accomplished than Davy's poetry, although there were those in the audience last Friday night who nodded vigor-

ously at his comment on the suggestion at that time of a Big Bang-type theory that "it is not beautiful enough".

Afterwards I was intoxicated at the thought that for a few years these two men were on parallel tracks. In a way the basis may have been alchemical and it is worth remembering that perhaps the greatest scientist of all, Newton, devoted much of his time and intellect to Alchemy, that Joseph Priestley's book on electricity could play a part in the shaping of Coleridge's poetic imagination and a profound part — as distinct from the designer stick-on of which Lewis Wolpert accuses several contemporary writers who try to embrace science — was an exhilarating insight into where eventual fusions of thought might lead.

Perhaps the Royal Institution will once again become the place in which we are told how the world is changing. The time seems ripe for scientists and artists to unite once again.

## Ideas to set the imagination on fire

## Hitting the right programme notes

OCCASIONALLY the Hallé Orchestra's monthly Opus series produces something which is both popular and special. Gerald Larner writes. Combine Lalo's *Symphonie espagnole* with Ravel's *Alborada del gracioso* and Tzigane and that's already the larger part of a cohesive and attractive programme. Debussy's *La Mer* does not quite fit in, but it is an unmissably high-quality score.

The misfortune was that Vadim Repin and Kent Nagano did not present the best possible case for the *Symphonie espagnole*. It needs to be so much more defined in melodic character than was achieved in Manchester's Bridgewater Hall on this occasion. Repin was much happier in the boastful gypsy idiom of *Tzigane*, which was delivered with virtuoso brilliance by soloist and orchestra alike. Kent Nagano conducted with a poetic instinct not so much to thrust every detail into high relief as to blend and integrate and trust in the undercurrents to carry the structural continuity — as they most effectively did.

TWO ambitious series — Radio 3's *Sounding the Century* and Simon Rattle's *Towards the Millennium* — collided at the Festival Hall on Wednesday night for Britten's *War Requiem*: one of the key

### concerts

masterpieces of the Sixties, Barry Millington writes. This was very much a *War Requiem* of our times. Andrea Gruber, the soprano soloist, is a rapidly rising star, while Rattle with his City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, its chorus and youth chorus, offers a Nineties' perspective, which could account for the lack of a spiritual aura in this performance.

There were nevertheless some fine things. Simon Keenlyside gave an eloquent reading of *Be slowly lifted up, thou long black arm*, but Rattle's big guns were reserved for the first thrilling choral outburst recapitulating the *Dies Irae*. Then came Robert Tear's despairing rendering of *Move him into the sun*. Gruber's assured *Lacrimosa*, and a rapt reprise of the *Kyrie* music for the choral *Pie Jesu*. Keenlyside plucked the depths of desolation with his *After the blast of lightning from the East*. Rattle then revealed that he had yet more in reserve for an overwhelming climax in the *Libera me*, at the return of the *Dies Irae*.

Penderecki's *Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima* proved an inspired coupling. Its final searing dissonance was for me the most harrowing moment of the evening.



Playing their scenes together perfectly: John Tomlinson as Sachs (left) and Thomas Allen as Beckmesser in the Royal Opera's superb staging of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*

## Higher and higher

OPERA: Rodney Milnes sees a brilliant Covent Garden revival of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*

It is too soon to get misty-eyed, of course, but in a few short months this *Meistersinger* will be the last opera to be heard in the old Covent Garden theatre, and it is hard to imagine a better send-off to the dear, dusty old house, or to the resident company before they go on the road. Graham Vick's outstanding production, now four years ago, was always one of the glories of the Isaacs regime, and at Saturday's revival it was even better — which is as it should be.

Among the constants are Richard Hudson's brightly coloured sets and earthy costumes — Breughel in Technicolor — though some of the codpieces still look like the triumph of optimism over

reasonable expectation. Vick's production is so unshowy that you hardly notice it's there — it couldn't be more chalky-cheese different from the Jones *Ring*, confirming that there are no rules in such matters. But re-rehearsal has brought new depths and insights, to which we will come later.

It would be wrong to cite Bernard Haitink as another constant. No two Haitink performances are the same: each one is a spontaneous act of musical creation. On Saturday he did not just give us "his" interpretation of *Meistersinger*, but a development of all that had gone before, new-minted in the light of long experience. Forward impulse never faltered — the six hours sped by — yet a sense of genial relaxation, of sheer enjoyment in music-making, was equally evident.

The last 20 minutes of the first act built to a near-Bacchic frenzy, cannily foreshadowing the second act riot and breakdown of civilisation-as-we-know-it, which he also took so fast as to risk a derailment that never came (all praise to Terry

Edwards's chorus). Knife-edge stuff, fitting the action. As before, conducting and playing of the third act prelude made you wish that time would stand still. What a great and wise musician.

Other constants include Nancy Gustafson's almost impossibly pretty Eva, finding her warmest form in time for the Quintet; Gösta Winbergh's Mozartian lyrical, amazingly unstrained Walther; Gwynne Howell's avuncular Pogner (still with a horrid wig); and Roderick Earle's perfect committee man of a Kothner. Herbert Lippert, miscast as Strauss's Matteo last year, was new as the apprentice David and enjoyed a signal success — the right voice, the right manner — and Catherine Wyn-Rogers's sparky Magdalene fully justified the changing of the line about her being "the old one".

Thomas Allen's prissy malevolence, wonderfully sung Beckmesser remains a miracle of character-building through music, with enough depth behind those not-quite-dead eyes to suggest reasons for the

malevolence. This near-tragic figure (and if you wonder whether words and notes actually justify the impersonation, you don't do so until long after the final curtain) threatened to unbalance the whole production last time, which brings us to the biggest change, the giant strides forward taken by John Tomlinson's Sachs.

Four years ago he seemed bent on emphasising the cobbler-artisan at the expense of the poet: he has now struck a perfect balance. His singing has more legato, more variety of dynamic and nuance without losing a iota of its elemental power, and his response to the words shows new poetic insight: his *Fliederzweig* was profoundly moving.

The ill-temper is still there, but the reasons for it are more clearly indicated, and the third act was truly a dark night of the soul. His Sachs is still a great bear of a man, which makes the sensitivity he now allows to break surface all the more affecting, and his essential good humour is in no way blunted: he and Allen play their comic scenes together perfectly. Tomlinson's new depths have indeed raised an already fine production to new heights.

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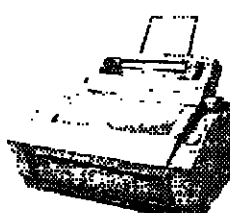
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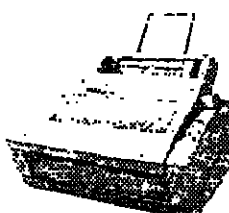
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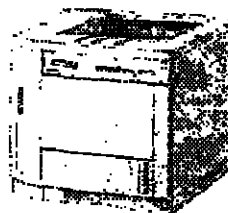
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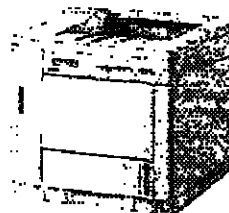
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# Locked into a suicidal system

Magnus Linklater calls for a thorough overhaul of prisons

Angela Bollam was 19 when she tied a sheet to the bars of her cell window and hanged herself. She had been alone for five hours in her narrow prison room with just a bunk-bed on one side and a desk on the other. She was wearing tear-proof canvas pyjamas, provided as an anti-suicide measure. A heroin addict, she had spent all morning without the medication she needed. The last human contact she had had was a 30-second conversation with a prison officer through the spyhole in her door. She was discovered dead only after staff noticed that she had not turned up for lunch. Her crime was not a great one — she was on remand for shoplifting at her local Kwik-Save supermarket.

The bleak circumstances of Angela's last hours have been emerging from a fatal accident inquiry into the recent suicide of three young women at Cornton Vale Prison near Stirling. There have now been six such deaths in the course of the past 15 months. To anyone who has followed the detail of this and previous inquiries, the pattern of events has become depressingly predictable. They all involve young, vulnerable girls, emotionally unstable, distressed, often dependent on drugs, and usually on remand for minor offences.

Prison, in those circumstances, can be a frightening experience, and to be locked up alone may be the final straw. In almost every case, there were indications in advance of a suicide risk, and though prisons have a strict procedure in such circumstances, with regular checks by prison staff, it has proved desperately inadequate. The male officer responsible for Angela's supervision had worked for only 11 days in a woman's prison, and had received minimal training in suicide-prevention. Most warders would admit that in a full prison, they simply cannot guarantee the proper monitoring necessary to prevent these deaths. Any psychologist knows that potential suicides should not be locked up on their own.

The inference is clear: prison is the wrong place for women like Angela. They need medical rather than penal supervision — treatment rather than isolation. If lives are to be saved, a completely different regime is required. But that will not happen. The reality is that vulnerable remand prisoners will continue to be sent to Cornton Vale and similar prisons, where they will be dealt with by overstretched officers in a threatening environment. Two weeks ago, a sheriff in Falkirk, remanding a young woman accused of assault, was told by her counsel that she was considered a suicide risk and should not be sent to Cornton Vale. The sheriff said he had looked at the circumstances of her case and decided that there was no alternative. She is currently being held there, "under supervision".

A fair and humane prison system. Winston Churchill

said, is the hallmark of a civilised society. If that is the case, then a Government presiding over a prison regime that allows young women to kill themselves in despair has, somewhere along the line, lost touch with civilised values. If this were just a temporary phenomenon, an unhappy statistical lapse, one could perhaps excuse and explain it, while offering sensible remedies. But everything conspires to suggest that this is the by-product of a punitive prison policy that sees custody as an end in itself rather than a means of rehabilitation.

The steady increase in the British prison population, symbolised by the arrival of a prison hulk from America, now moored off the Dorset coast, indicates that closer attention to the plight of distressed remand prisoners ranks fairly low among penal priorities. Prison governors protest about overflowing jails, but are treated with "contempt" (their word) by the Home Office. Simply coping with numbers has taken precedence over anything as subtle as the humane treatment of offenders.

The figures are compelling. In England and Wales, the total prison population has risen almost to 60,000, the highest proportion in Europe. Of this shameful total, those on remand have increased from 12 to 21 per cent in the past 20 years. In crude figures, that means there are currently 12,000 people held in prison who have not been convicted of a crime. The rise in Scotland is less, but still significant. Of those, a majority do not in the end receive custodial sentences, and so need not have been in prison at all; a quarter of them are acquitted altogether before proceedings come to an end.

Weeks and months spent alongside seasoned criminals, perhaps in the psychologically intimidating surroundings of a Cornton Vale, or locked up in an overcrowded cell, have taken their toll. Of the 64 suicides in England and Wales last year, more than half were remand prisoners. That time spent in prison, away from homes, jobs, friends and relations, means that re-entering society for those who are expected to become law-abiding citizens again is doubly difficult.

We need reform — led by a laterday John Howard or Elizabeth Fry, perhaps. Better still, by a humane Home Secretary who has the courage to pursue civilised values undeterred by the baying of the law-and-order mob. But reform, in the current political climate, with both major parties competing for the popular vote, is not on offer. Instead, sentencing policy, backed by the unflinching tone of retribution, forces the hand of the judiciary in the opposite direction. The judge who voices concern about prison conditions from the bench is accused of being "soft on crime". There are no bonus points for compassion.

Only the Liberal Democrats are honest enough to tell us what they will do about the two great issues

# Blair's majority without a mandate

Juvenal, the great satirist, warned of the "thousand cruel dangers" of life in Rome at the end of the 1st century, rising to the climactic horror of "poets reciting their verses in the month of August". In 1738, Samuel Johnson published his poem *London* in imitation of Juvenal's satire, and transformed the lines to: Here falling houses thunder on your head. And here a female atheist talks you dead.

A modern imitator might describe a new horror, not confined to Rome or London and unknown to Juvenal or Johnson, which is worse than Latin versifiers or even female atheists: with the election announcement, we now have to suffer politicians repeating their soundbites on television in April.

It is not only the politicians' contempt for their audience that is odious. We are all quite accustomed to advertisers using repetitive and specious arguments. What is more worrying is the politicians' contempt for themselves. The current soundbites are all so idiotic. Apparently the real issues must not be discussed before the electorate.

Political campaigning has always been disingenuous; when Gladstone was campaigning in Midlothian he did not put the argument between the Turks and the Bulgars in its most judicious form. But the soundbites combine the disingenuous with the simplistic. For the next six weeks we shall hear virtually nothing else, and they are already as repulsive as they are intellectually feeble.

The grand refusal is the conscious decision, taken by both major parties, to avoid putting the single currency question before the electorate. Both agree that there would have to be a referendum before Britain joined the single currency; neither will say whether it would choose to join or not. Most Tories are opposed to the

single currency, but they cannot say so because Kenneth Clarke will not let them, and the Prime Minister has not had the confidence, or perhaps the wish, to overrule his Chancellor. I honestly do not know whether John Major is a closet Europhobic or vice versa. The Government is campaigning on a policy that perhaps no member of the Cabinet truly supports. It is at best Asquith's policy of "wait and see". At the last election, the two parties carefully avoided allowing the Maastricht treaty to become an election issue. They are repeating the performance at this election on the issue of the single currency. This coalition of silence is anti-democratic.

Obviously the proposed television debate between John Major and Tony Blair would do nothing to make the party leaders express their real intentions on Europe. If they had any. How would the dialogue go? Tony: "I challenge you, Prime Minister, to say whether you will take the pound into a single currency. The voters have the right to know." John: "Really, I'd much rather not say. No responsible Prime Minister would tell the electorate what he intended to do before he did it. But it is an absolute scandal that a Leader of the Opposition will not tell the voters his policy on the most important constitutional issue to face Britain for many generations. Will Labour take Britain into a single currency?" Tony: "That's an altogether

er inappropriate question, typical of a Prime Minister who has raised taxes 22 times. All I can say is that enough is enough."

That, or something very like it, is all they would be able to say. The Liberal Democrats are, in any case, quite right about the constitutional impropriety of the proposed Major-Blair television debate. Such a debate would imply that these two are presidential candidates. MPs would be only so many electoral voters, wholly dependent on the

It may seem idealistic to suppose that a general election campaign should be better than this, but it can be, or at least it has been in the past. Margaret Thatcher fought a much more open campaign in 1979, though many of the reforms of the Thatcher decade developed as time went on, in response to political events. The Churchill "set the people free" campaign in 1951 was not perfect but it was more open. The Labour campaign of 1945, which promised both to create the post-war welfare state and to nationalise major industries, was the most open and detailed of all, though the nationalisation policy proved a disaster. In 1945, in 1951 and in 1979, the country was promised major changes: when the changes came they were widely accepted as an expression of the public will, even by those who were opposed to them.

The big issues now are as evident as they were in 1945, 1951 or 1979. The British have to make two great decisions: whether to keep their post-war welfare state at the unavoidable cost of higher taxation, or to accept plural funding in health, education and pensions; and whether to accept a highly integrated Europe, including a single currency. We know the Liberal Democrat answers. They would raise taxes to finance the welfare state; they are federalists, both for Britain and for Europe. We do not know what either

of the two major parties would do about financing the welfare state or about Europe, except — for Peter Lilley's admirable proposals for funding pensions.

If one wants what the Liberal Democrats offer, more welfare, higher taxes and a European superstate, then one should vote Liberal Democrat with a clear conscience. If one does not want these things then one should not vote for them, but one can still respect their greater openness. In the two larger parties, the voter runs into a wall of silence. Aside from pensions, the Conservatives claim that they will keep the present welfare state in its present form but will not raise taxes. That is impossible. The Labour Party is confused about pensions, but otherwise says "ditto to the Tories". That is equally impossible. Labour will agree to a bit more European integration, but not too much. The Tories say that they will not agree to much more European integration, perhaps only to a bit less than Labour. Neither party will define an attitude towards a single currency: neither party has a policy on welfare, taxation or Europe which tells the voters what it intends to do.

Tony Blair is almost certain to win this election, probably with a large majority. On these central issues he will come to office without having asked for a public mandate. He will not therefore have the mandate for change that Attlee had in 1945, Churchill in 1951 or Thatcher in 1979 — the three decisive victories of the post-war period. He will have a mandate for Scottish and Welsh devolution and for removing the hereditary peers, but not the big social and European issues. "Enough is enough" is an emotional slogan, not a policy. Yet a majority without a mandate like an avalanche of melting snow: it can do some damage but it is "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing".

William Rees-Mogg

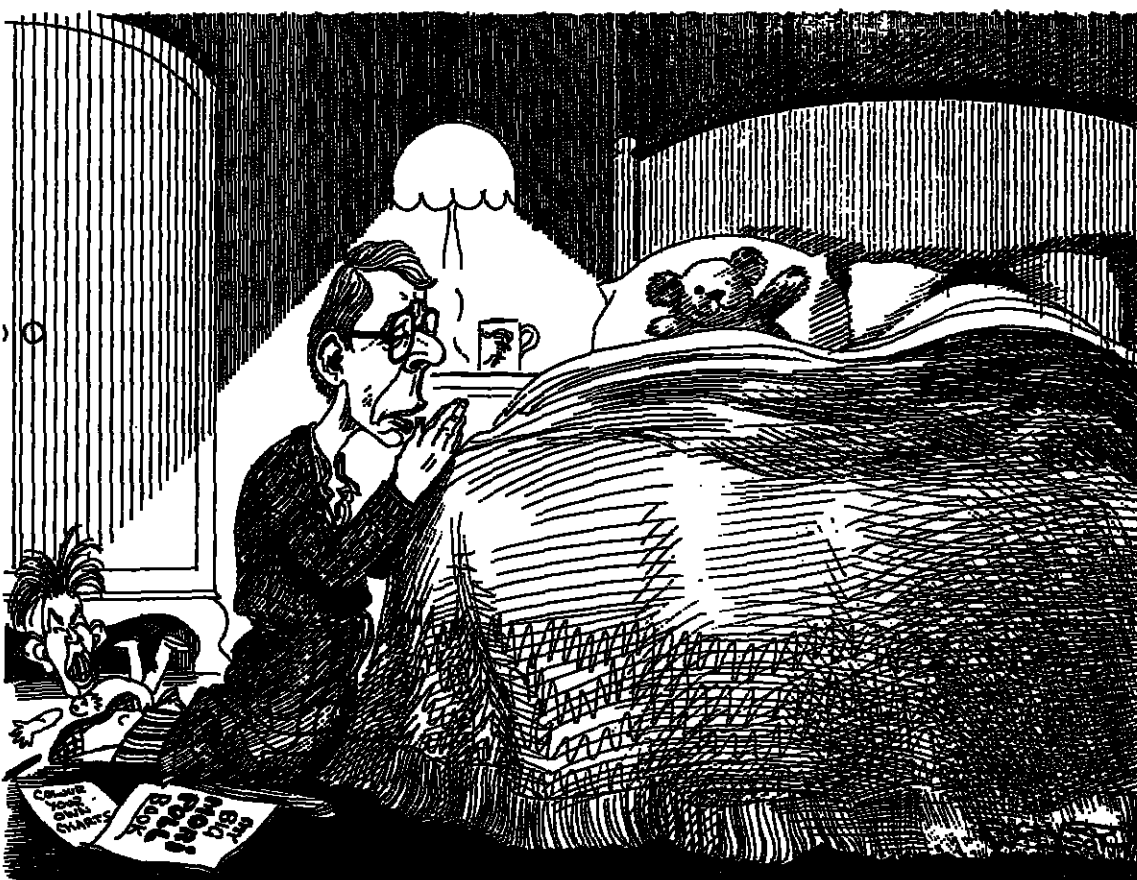
national debate; the minor parties, the Liberal Democrats themselves, the various Ulster parties, the Scottish and Welsh nationalists, the Eurosceptic parties and the Greens would not be given their proportionate share in the national debate. I suppose a television debate in which both Ian Paisley and Sir James Goldsmith were involved as party leaders would be very entertaining, but the main party leaders would never agree to that. They would prefer to have a political monopoly which the British constitution does not allow them.

# A debate won't be enough

On the first campaign day, Peter Riddell says voters have already decided

John Major needs a miracle to stay in Downing Street, but he is unlikely to find it in a television debate with Tony Blair. As the campaign is formally launched today, the electoral arithmetic is straightforward and brutal. Whichever way you adjust the polling figures, the Tories are much further behind than any other governing party which has gone on to win re-election. Moreover, the ratings have been settled for some time, with the Labour lead widening, if anything, in recent weeks. The Tories now require a swing of votes in their favour greater than any party has obtained during the final weeks of a campaign.

The Tories therefore have no option but to try to jolt voters out of their desire for a change of government. They need to dramatise the choice to make people feel less sure about voting Labour — especially since the multi-million-pound "New Labour, New Danger" advertising campaign has so far had no apparent impact on voting intentions. Despite the doubts of many of his advisers, Mr Major is right to take the gamble of a television debate. However, big uncertainties remain because of the need to fit in Paddy Ashdown (who should appear if there are to be several debates) as well as about the format (a studio audience might increase the gladiatorial aspect). If there are to be at least two debates, as Brian Mawhinney yesterday suggested, when will they be held? Neither party will want to risk a high-profile debate too close to polling day, in case something goes disastrously wrong. In America, the final debate last year was more than three weeks before election day.



A televised debate, or debates, would capitalise on Mr Major's appeal as the decent, sensible man with the knowledge and experience to handle the intractable problems of government — by contrast, the Tories hope, with the inexperience of Mr Blair. Mr Major is good at conveying his command of a detailed brief, the manager with the safe pair of hands. But Mr Blair is also fluent, confident and self-deprecating in this situation, as he has shown at meetings with Labour members around the country.

Such a programme would certainly become the event of the campaign, if only because of its novelty. There would be endless coverage and analysis. But overseas experience suggests that the overall impact on the result might be small. In America, presidential debates started in

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

1960 and have been held every four years since 1976. The occasional gaffes and even rarer memorable phrases have entered campaign folklore, but there is little evidence that they altered the outcomes. Usually, one candidate is thought to have "won" the debate, but he receives merely a short-lived boost, often cancelled out later. The Hansard Society is this week producing a timely discussion paper by Stephen Coleman on televised leaders' debates, looking at the experience in America, Australia and Canada. This suggests that even if debates do not produce big swings in votes, they do increase public knowledge of party policies and candidates, particularly among those least interested in

politics, and this may increase turnout.

Such debates can often, however, be boring and unilluminating, as were last autumn's Clinton-Dole encounters. This is partly because the formats have become rigid and prevented extensive exchanges and follow-up of points. The liveliest debate that I heard last year in America was the final, free-wheeling one of eight held over nearly six months between John Kerry and Bill Weld in the Senate race in Massachusetts. There the moderator was essentially an umpire, rather than an interviewer, and the contrast between the candidates came out clearly.

The main reason why debates frequently disappoint is paradoxical: because they are regarded as so important. Candidates play safe, often sounding like programmed spokes-

men. They thrust and parry, but seldom land a real punch. In Britain, Mr Major and Mr Blair are both too practised to make serious blunders, and because of their regular exchanges in the Commons they are much more experienced than American presidential candidates. As important as the event may be the battle of spin outside the studio, starting while the debate is still going on, as the parties' press officers try to persuade reporters that their man has won. This already happens here every Tuesday and Thursday after Prime Minister's Questions.

So I would be surprised, despite all the hype, if such debates were to be decisive. Few campaign events are. Many voters may nowadays be less firmly attached to one party or another than 25 years ago or more, but even so the vast majority have made up their minds before the formal campaign starts. Worryingly for the Tories, there is little evidence that governments can do much to alter an outcome, although Oppositions can ruin their chances. Paul Keating entered the Australian elections in 1993 as the underdog and his re-election was sealed by the opposition's support for a general sales tax. In Britain, the Labour campaign fell apart in 1983, but otherwise, shifts during a campaign have generally been small — four to five percentage points at the most.

However, a campaign can be decisive at the margin, tipping the balance to give one party a slight edge in a close race, as happened to Labour in February 1974. Five years ago, Mr Major's robust and resilient performance on his soapbox and Neil Kinnock's mishaps in the final ten days may have been enough to ensure that the Tories kept their overall majority — even if, as the *British Election Study* suggests, Labour could not have done anything in the campaign to generate enough votes to become the largest single party in a hung Parliament, let alone to win an overall majority. But we are not talking about movements at the margin now. The Tories need a political earthquake, and I do not yet hear any subterranean rumblings.

# Bath plug

THERE WAS an unwelcome guest at the Lucknam Park country hotel, near Bath, where John Major's closest advisers gathered to talk election tactics on Friday night. The hotel, a Palladian mansion in 500 acres, where suites cost up to £530 a night, was deemed the perfect base camp for the party's Central Council meeting in Bath itself.

Come dinner-time, the Prime Minister and the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, were upstairs discussing how to mop the floor with Tony Blair in a television debate.

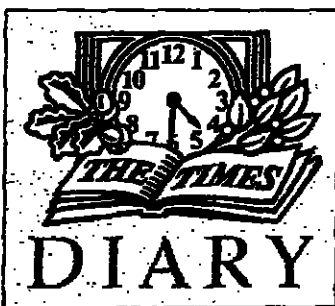
Meanwhile, Norma Major entertained her husband's coterie to dinner in the restaurant below. Between mouthfuls of sea bass and rocket salad, Norman Blackwell, the head of the No 10 policy unit, chatted intensely with Major's political secretary, Howell James, his parliamentary private secretary, Lord McColl and John Ward, and speechwriter George Bridges.

Not quite the moment, then, for Philip Gould, Labour's election strategist and arch spin-meister to arrive for dinner. Tony spines stiffened visibly: "He strode in and

bravely pretended not to notice," relates an observer. "The waiters saw the problem and just steered him to a table in the opposite corner of the room." From which vantage-point Gould watched the comings and goings of Major's men as they were called up in turn to put the finishing touches to the PM's "you can only be sure with the Conservatives" speech.



"What do you mean we've missed the idea of March?"



● A kleptomaniac is at large in South Africa's Parliament Buildings in Cape Town. Since Nelson Mandela took office in 1994, 260 incidents of theft have been reported. As well as a staple diet of fax machines and computers, the thief has also taken the curtains hung specially for the Queen's state visit, an MP's gun, a set of breathing apparatus and all the door handles from the ladies' loos.

## It's a steal

HIS INTERPRETATION of the Eighth Commandment may be eccentric, but the Rev John Papworth, the clergyman who said shoplifting from supermarkets was not sinful, is a man of principle to the end. Subscribers to his magazine, *Fourth World Review* are means-

tested according to categories: (a) television personalities, dishwasher-owners and users of taxis: £25 per annum (b) drivers of second-hand cars and wearers of false teeth: £10 p.a. (c) archbishops: £220.

## Blue corners

CHAOS broke out at the 90th Varsity Boxing Match, which was narrowly won by Oxford at the Cambridge Guildhall on Friday. With Oxford leading 4-3, the light-heavyweights took the ring for a potentially match-setting bout.



Papworth: eccentric

## Streit on

TWO TENORS were on show for the price of one at the Royal Opera House's *Così fan tutte* last week. The young tenor Rainer Trost had fallen ill, while the second tenor, the Swedish Gösta Winbergh, having just performed in the matrière, needed honey rather than more strain on his larynx. So enter the American Kurt Streit, who had earlier in the day flown into London from America for a concert series. Having sung in the production before, he was able



Fluck and Law's image of a head-to-head encounter

to sing half the opera while Winbergh managed the other half. In a play in which disguise has so large a part, the transition was virtually seamless.

## Silk purse

BUREAUCRACY has finally triumphed over art at the Royal Academy. Piccadilly, where some of Britain's sharpest political satirists are staging an exhibition. To give a contemporary edge to the *Spitting Image* display (a skip filled with latex effigies of Thatcher, Major,



Clarke et al), the puppets' creator Roger Law — Damien Hirst style — secreted three real pigs' heads among the dolls.

"It worked a treat," says the bearded Law, "until some stuffed official told me to get rid of them on health and safety grounds." Law had the final word, however. His model of Tony Blair as a grinning angel began to emit a strange smell in the course of the private view: "They're duck wings," he said "and when they get hot they smell like old socks."

P.H.S





## ALBANIAN ANARCHY

The EU should deploy an elite brigade of accountants

Apparently haunted by their collective failure in Bosnia, European Union foreign ministers meeting informally in The Netherlands yesterday issued their response. The communiqué emphasised their strong commitment to assisting Albania in its efforts to restore civilian structures and the rule of law. With that, the 15 politicians decided to dispatch military and political advisers, but not troops, to Tirana.

In truth, there was little more they either could or should do. Those fine words will have little impact in Albania, not least because there is no organised authority available to be so affected. Europe's poorest nation has slipped into a condition of simple anarchy, more akin to the "failed states" of Africa — Liberia and Somalia — than to any this continent has recently experienced. To detect subtle political manoeuvres behind the current conditions of total lawlessness is to be too rational. Albania is a country in a state of implosion. This might well be exploited by partisan forces, including the former Stalinists, but it has not been created by them nor is it under their control.

For that reason, a comparison with the former Yugoslavia is inaccurate and unhelpful. In that case organised factions emerged along ethnic lines and in a highly orchestrated fashion deliberately committed the worst atrocities seen in Europe since 1945. That this happened, with little restraint, and could ultimately be dealt with only by American intervention, even then of an inconsistent sort, was a shameful indictment of Western Europe. Albania is different. The whole country is embarked upon an apparently unstoppable uprising: a revolt without leaders, philosophy, or strategy in the conventional sense. Its sole coherent objective is the removal of Sali Berisha from the presidential palace. Beyond that, even the participants are clueless.

President Berisha's new offer to resign if his party is defeated in fresh elections would, in ordinary circumstances, be seen as magnanimous and a reasonable formula for the restoration of order. Unfortunately, events have travelled beyond the point at which reason can be applied. The EU are unlikely to meet Mr Berisha: the anarchy and obvious indifference of the armed forces do not bode well for his survival. Those who wish to limit the damage that Albania inflicts upon itself, which is a proper objective for Europe's statesmen, had better turn to how best to restore confidence once events have run their course.

In that context the original cause of this crisis, fraudulent pyramid schemes and their aftermath, must be revisited. To outsiders it might seem odd that the Albanian Government should suffer for commercial malpractice. Matters are rather more complex. The Democratic Party headed by Mr Berisha was lavishly funded by the directors of these dubious enterprises. It also benefited from the artificial "feel-good" factor they encouraged. By these means it won a rigged parliamentary contest last year. This may well have influenced its decision not to apply appropriate regulations to the pyramid companies. Street violence may be destructive, but it is based on more than unfocused anger.

The EU should indeed act in Albania but through an elite brigade of accountants and economists. The essential issue now is how to get that country through to parliamentary elections in one piece and then perform the necessary fiscal surgery that will enable whoever is elected to ensure stability. This may necessitate considerable humanitarian aid in the very short term and financial contributions in the short-medium term. It is the only route by which anarchy will be abated and the rule of law restored.

## CAR WARS

The campaign now standing at platform number one...

Whether voters feel exhilarated or dispirited at the prospect of a long election campaign after a lengthy build-up, an old truth bears repeating. However glib the soundbites, however skilfully evasive the ministers and their shadows, voters now have their rare opportunity to let politicians know what they think are the important issues and what they think should be done about them. Newspapers, radio and television have the duty not only to report the politicians but to listen to the electorate's drumbeat as well.

Every Monday for the past eight weeks we have been setting out the issues facing the country. Today's subject is transport policy: it will never decide a general election but it is an important subject on the public mind. And the public is fed up with neglect of the country's transport system. The Conservatives have discovered, too late, that good transport is vital not only to business efficiency and global competitiveness but to the quality of daily life. Since 1979 there have been 11 Transport Secretaries, each staying on average no more than 18 months. The department has been used as a transit station for Cabinet ministers on their way out or a proving ground for those groomed for higher things. None has stayed long enough to make any impression on a demoralised department.

Things have begun to change. The Government has realised that postwar reliance on the private car was leading towards national gridlock and environmental misery. Roadbuilding was unable to keep pace with rising traffic volume. The old policy of "predict and provide" was not only inordinately expensive; it was eating up countryside and destroying cities at a rate that alarmed, not only environmentalists. Car numbers had to be curbed; and that

meant revitalising public transport. But years of underinvestment, especially in the London Underground, has left systems in need of such huge sums of money that there is little the Government can do in the short term to halt, let alone reverse, the decline in services and provision.

In the long term, privatisation was seen as the answer. The Government paid a heavy electoral cost for the implementation of this policy. Rail privatisation has been complex, protracted and muddled by financial uncertainty. The overall shift is right: there is no other alternative to privatisation which will generate the money and innovation so obviously needed. But the benefits, although now more likely than sceptics anticipated, have not flowed fast enough to assuage public opinion.

South West Trains, the first franchise to be granted, may be the first casualty. By making 70 drivers redundant in January, Stagecoach, the operator, has been forced to cancel hundreds of trains serving the Conservative-voting counties southwest of London. Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, who launched Britain's first private mainline service from Waterloo a year ago with glowing praise, has now described the company as inept. The rail franchise director is threatening a £1 million fine. The row has wiped more than £250 million off rail operators' shares. And critics have invaluable electoral ammunition.

The only comfort for the Government is that Labour has been equally insouciant and ill-prepared to offer realistic alternatives. That will not comfort vexed commuters or relieve motorists' frustration. It is a warning, however. Transport is just one area where the next government must prove itself a lot more adroit.

## POSTERITY PUZZLE

How to commemorate an event which never occurred

Posterity gives every man his true value. Tacitus claimed. Posterity is as likely to be wrong as anyone else, the American journalist Heywood Brown countered 18 centuries later. Both poles of argument look a little crude in the light of the odd history of Enoch Soames. Is it possible to confuse even the rigorous judgment of posterity?

The British Library is being asked how it plans to mark one of the most resonant dates ever to appear in a short story: June 3, 1997. Max Beerbohm's story *Enoch Soames*, set exactly a century ago, recalls the final day in the life of Enoch Soames, an unprepossessing poet with a small beard and no talent for poetry. But Soames is obsessed by his own place in literary history.

On June 3, 1897, Soames is approached by a plausible gentleman who introduces himself as the Devil. Soames can have five hours in the British Museum Reading Room of June 1997 to discover what posterity thinks of him, says the Devil, if he descends to Hell immediately afterwards. Soames travels through time to the domed Reading Room — he is spared the new British Library in St Pancras — and is appalled to find that he has left no mark on history.

First published in 1919, *Enoch Soames* strikes a nerve with a light-hearted but acute treatment of artists' yearning to know how they might be remembered after death. The immensity of the date of Soames's flying visit to this century has produced a peculiar paradox. The man who never existed and

who wrote nothing worth remembering has now become a minor literary cult. Enoch Soames fans want to meet in the Reading Room on June 3. Spoof lectures on post-feminist analysis of Soames's collection, *Fungoid*, may be delivered.

The judgment of posterity is not a gradual elimination of doubt about the timeless quality of a book, painting or poem; recognition is a fickle bubble. John Donne was neglected for more than a century before his poetry was revived. Jane Austen's original gravestone, in Winchester Cathedral, carries no reference to the fact that she was a writer. Who now reads Robert Bridges, Poet Laureate when Max Beerbohm first published *Enoch Soames*? Few artists can master the trick of influencing their ratings after death. T.S. Eliot ceased to write poetry after the *Four Quartets* and switched to plays, perhaps fearful that further poems could only detract from his fame. Even in his letters he betrays an awareness that his correspondence might be read by generations not yet born when he first wrote them.

Technology may alter the slow sifting of reputation. Digital data can be stored in almost limitless quantities; publishers no longer control what is available by selecting works for printing. A database has already been begun which plans to include all British poetry, however bad. Why should it not expand to include the neglected work of Enoch Soames?

## Achievements of 'unlucky' Berisha

From Lord Bethell

Sir, When I was first in Albania in 1988 the country was in the grip of Stalinist tyrants, supposedly elected by a 100 per cent vote of the Albanian people. No private citizen could own a car or travel abroad or practise the Christian or Muslim religion.

The prisons were full of political prisoners, some of whom had been kept in terrible conditions for more than 40 years. Every few days some poor Albanian was shot trying to swim from Saranda to Corfu on a rubber ring.

I was taken to the Secret Police Museum and shown pictures of the "fascist imperialists" David Smiley and Julian Amery (report and photographs, March 7), brave men who deserved medals for helping to liberate Albania from Italian and German occupation. In those days Albanian attitudes to Britain were hostile and we had no diplomatic relations.

Mahomet Kaplani, the deputy Foreign Minister, told me that religion was a plague bacillus and that Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, was a traitor and a heretic.

"It is not true that we arrest people for going to church," he said. "How can we? There are no churches."

Three years later I found that Dr Sali Berisha was bravely building up an Albanian opposition, in the wake of a fair amount of Stalinist bloodshed. He piloted Albania to a measure of democracy, with a vigorous press and the freest elections in its history, which he won in 1992. One of his first actions was to erect a memorial to the British agents who died in Albania during the war.

Sir Reginald Hibbert (letter, March 13) is therefore wrong, in my view, to compare Sali Berisha to the Stalinist leader Enver Hoxha. The latter kept his people in poverty, closed from the world and subject to the whims of a Communist Party that no citizen was allowed to challenge.

On the other hand Mr Berisha, in spite of his faults, did his best to build a free economy and a multiparty system. He did not, as the Communists did in 1990, order his men to fire on unarmed demonstrators. He was unlucky, but the path he chose for his country had merit. Soon, I hope, more fortunate Albanian democrats will follow his example.

Yours sincerely,

NICHOLAS BETHELL,  
Manor Farm,  
Brill, Buckinghamshire.  
March 14.

## Gorbachev's legacy

From Professor Archie Brown, FBA

Sir, Mr Oleg Gordievsky's letter (March 12) about Mikhail Gorbachev is wildly misleading. When blood was shed these were one-night excesses which Gorbachev never allowed to become the sustained slaughter that Boris Yeltsin permitted over 18 months in Chechnya.

In one case cited by Mr Gordievsky, Tbilisi 1989, a parliamentary committee of inquiry, headed by two deputies closer to Yeltsin than to Gorbachev — Anatoli Sobchak and Sergei Stankevich — cleared Gorbachev of any responsibility. Indeed, as I have shown in my book *The Gorbachev Factor*, the killings occurred because his explicit instructions were disregarded.

On the broader issue of free elections, after centuries of authoritarian government and 70 years of Communist rule Russia could not move to "free elections" and a multiparty system in one fell swoop. Even today, with the exception of the Communists' organisation, party formation in Russia remains weak.

What Gorbachev decided upon in the summer of 1988 and implemented the following spring was the move to contested elections (albeit imperfectly democratic) for a legislature in which real debate took place and from where the highly critical remarks of deputies were broadcast to tens of millions of Soviet television viewers. After that things could never be the same again.

A fairer observer than Mr Gordievsky — though from the Yeltsin rather than Gorbachev camp — Mr Yegor Gaidar has said that it is impossible to overestimate what Gorbachev did for Russian freedom. On that he was right.

Yours faithfully,  
ARCHIE BROWN (Sub-Warden),  
St Antony's College, Oxford.  
March 13.

## Jamaican economy

From Mr Ronald Irving

Sir, The extent of the failure of the economic policies of Michael Manley (Christianity, March 8) was summed up for me by the cashier in a supermarket in Jamaica a couple of years ago: "He promised us equality and gave us poverty. They have stolen our money."

This was in reply to my remark about the astonishing inflation since my last holiday in Jamaica.

Yours faithfully,  
R. IRVING,  
57 York Street, W1.  
March 8.

Sport letters, page 37

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Informed choice of primary school

From Mr John McNicholas

Sir, In his article on the publication of primary school league tables ("Who will be top of the class?", March 10), John O'Leary states that "parents will finally [my italics] have some objective information on primary schools". He repeats the fallacy two paragraphs later — that parents "have had to make their choice of school solely [my italics] on impressions and local reputation".

Since 1993 primary schools have been obliged to include in their written information for parents contained in the school brochure/prospectus, the percentages of their pupils attaining the different levels in the national curriculum tests in English, maths and science.

It is this regulation which makes the publication of league tables superfluous. Parents already know, before they come to make a choice of primary school, the few (indeed it may only be one) that are logistically accessible for their children. A visit by them to a school will produce not only a reliable first-hand impression but the hard facts about children's achievement in the school. And if the school is too far away to visit it is hardly likely to be near enough for their children to attend.

I am glad that, on the adjacent page (article, "Now, make your choice"), John O'Leary almost recants, admitting that up-to-date test results are also contained in schools' annual reports.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN MCNICHOLAS  
(President, National Association of Head Teachers, 1994-95),  
Orchard House,  
Roston Road,  
Hornsea, East Yorkshire.  
March 10.

From the Head Teacher  
of Dorchester St Birinus  
Church of England School

Sir, Many proud pupils, parents, governors and teachers will be disappointed to find that their schools were omitted from the primary school league tables.

In many cases this was because the Department for Education and Em-

ployment policy is to publish results only where 11 or more pupils have taken the tests. Ten pupils from this school took the tests last summer, of whom 80 per cent achieved Level 4 or above in English, 60 per cent in maths and 90 per cent in science, putting the school in the top 25 per cent of Oxfordshire schools.

Yours faithfully,  
JENNY POND,  
Head Teacher,  
Dorchester St Birinus  
Church of England School,  
Queen Street,  
Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxford.  
March 12.

From Dr John Herbert

Sir, It seems these days that as much is being spent in education on assessment as on teachers' salaries. It has cost £1 million to produce the primary school league tables.

My wife is a governor of a small infants' school with fewer than 50 children. She has left for a governors' meeting with her agenda papers. I am about to leave for an important committee meeting at a university. My agenda papers equal hers in content, length and weight.

When are we going to regain our senses?

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN HERBERT,  
Pendryffryn,  
17 Gelli Avenue, Risca, Gwent.  
March 11.

From Mr Sebastian Watt

Sir, On the day primary school league tables are published, showing my children's school as the best placed in Cambridge, I receive from the chairman of governors a letter explaining that, owing to less funding per pupil this year, they will have no choice but to make redundancies in the teaching staff.

I wonder just what message the Government would like me to take from this.

Yours faithfully,  
SEBASTIAN WATT,  
52 Highsett,  
Hills Road, Cambridge.  
March 11.

by the farmers. This will mean considerable loss of pleasure to many thousands of country people who have been hunting for many hundreds of years. It will also mean considerably less pleasure to the foxes, as they are hard to kill and most will be wounded and die painfully over several days.

To describe field sports enthusiasts as "braying asses" and "oafs" is not an impressive intellectual argument.

Yours faithfully,

D. P. MARCHESSINI,  
Kingsbury House,  
15/17 King Street, St James's, SW1.  
March 11.

From Mr Lionel Alexander

Sir, At the end of a long and blameless life trying — albeit without great distinction — to serve my country, my community and my family and friends, I find it hard to accept, especially from strangers, that because I enjoy game shooting, I am a "braying ass".

Strongly held and forcefully expressed opinions in debate are to be expected. Bad manners are not.

Yours faithfully,  
LIONEL ALEXANDER,  
Clunmore,  
Drumadrochit, Inverness-shire.  
March 12.

was transmitted.

I would be more inclined to accept Father Bown's criticisms if we had identified any of those who kept the money. Despite considerable interest from the rest of the media, the programme did not name them.

He returned his cheque but many others in our honesty test did not. Vicars and priests were only just in front of used-car dealers from east London and well behind Members of Parliament.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER CORKE  
(Producer-director, *World in Action*),  
Granada Television,  
The London Television Centre,  
Upper Ground, SE1.  
March 13.

## Israel's 'candid friends'

From Mr A. J. Cotton

Sir, No doubt Jews living outside Israel do have the right to criticise her (Mr David Weizmann's letter, March 7) but whether they should do so publicly as distinct from privately, and whether such expression is as helpful to the State as "candid friends" would wish, is a matter on which there are opposing views.

My wife and I had our home in Israel for nearly 12 years. Our son and daughter served in the Israeli Defence Forces, and I do not agree with Mr Weizmann. One reason is that Israel's problems are usually complex and too many Jews in the Diaspora often express uninformed opinion too quickly.

Yours etc,  
A. J. COTTON,  
6 Cedar Court,  
Sheen Lane, SW14.  
March 7.

## Funding plea for London's Tube

From Mr David Bramson and others

Sir, Inadequate transport is a key issue which could put London's economic competitiveness at risk. As businessmen we recognise the bottom line contribution the Underground makes and its role in maintaining London as a world-class city.

Regrettably, however, the failure of successive governments over the past 35 years to match this contribution has led to a £12 billion investment backlog, compounded by a 28 per cent cut in government grant over the next three years. As a result, London Transport has been forced to pare £700 million from its investment programme. This flies in the face of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report of 1991, which recommended investment of £700 to £750 million for ten years to eliminate the backlog. Next year investment will be only £340 million.

Monday morning sees the launch of the London Tube Campaign, the aim of which is to raise awareness of the funding shortfall and to persuade the Government to review London Transport's financial settlement as outlined in the last Budget. The campaign brings together business, voluntary, leisure and commuter organisations in a wide-ranging coalition of London interests who wish to see a properly funded and reliable modern metro system.

As financial supporters of the campaign, our message to all political parties is that amid the recent speculation about long-term options for the Underground, we cannot lose sight of its immediate financial needs. The current levels of funding are inadequate for London's competitiveness and that of the UK economy as a whole.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID BRAMSON  
(Senior Partner, Nabarro Nathanson),  
KEITH CLARKE  
(Executive Vice-President,  
Kvaerner plc),  
ALAN JONES  
(Chief Executive, BICC plc),  
NICK LAND  
(Senior Partner, Ernst & Young),  
London First,  
Caxton House, 6 Tothill Street, SW1.  
March 15.

## Arts Council subsidies

From Dr Anthony Field

Sir, It is not surprising to read that Lord McAlpine hated his time on the Arts Council (Features, March 7, except Scottish editions). It is ludicrous to make political appointments of people who appear to have so little acquaintance with the council's work or its finances.

Lord McAlpine says that it was never satisfactorily explained to him why council money should be spent on a tour of *Okhoma!* The reasons for that investment were clearly explained to the council at the time as well as in my finance director's notes in the council's annual reports and accounts.

In 1980-81 the council offered Cameron Mackintosh Productions Ltd a guarantee of £70,000 to tour this Leicester Haymarket production. This was both to enable the Leicester theatre to exploit its Christmas production and to assist a number of large regional theatres to stay open and available for the council's programme of touring opera and dance companies.

In the event this production of *Okhoma!* proved so successful that after the tour it moved into the Palace Theatre in London for an extended run and the share of profits from the tour and the West End was reflected in the council's annual published accounts from 1980 to 1983. The Leicester theatre's share of profits was also reflected in its accounts for those years.

Yours truly,  
ANTHONY FIELD  
(Finance Director,  
Arts Council, 1988-89),  
152 Cromwell Tower, Barbican, EC2.  
March 11.

## Goldwyn's wisdom

From Mr P. R. Edwards

Sir, I think Kathy Lette (Diary, March 11) had in mind a "Goldwynism" when saying: "Men think monogamy is something you make furniture from."

Sam Goldwyn is reputed to have said that monogamy was OK in the office, but at home he preferred white pine.

Yours faithfully,  
P. R. EDWARDS,  
3 Aspin Lane,  
Knarsborough, North Yorkshire.

## Too close for comfort

From Sir George Cooper

Sir, I have become accustomed to my bank allocating me a Relationship Manager, though my wife is (thankfully) reluctant to enter into a relationship with hers. But today I have received a letter from a magazine subscriptions service signed by a lady calling herself the Head of Fulfilment.

What am I to do?  
Yours etc,  
G. COOPER,  
Mulberry Cottage,  
37 Mulberry Green,  
Old Harlow, Essex.  
March 12.







# VICTOR VASARELY

The advantages of the new milk are obvious. It is of course, free from all suspicion of being contaminated with "milk borne" diseases like tuberculosis, scarlet fever, or diphtheria. It can, moreover, be made up in any proportions desired, that is, with more or less casein, fat, sugar or salts and thus can be supplied to children and invalids according to a medical prescription. Finally, the new milk can be produced more cheaply than can ordinary milk and should thus prove a real boon to the poor.



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TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

## GOING, GOING, GONE

Sentimentalists have a field day at Cardiff  
Rob Andrew  
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PLUS

France's grand slam PAGE 28  
England's triple crown PAGE 29

## REFEREES: A CAUTIONARY TALE

Steve McManaman on footballers being brought to book  
PAGE 30

## SPORT FOR ALL

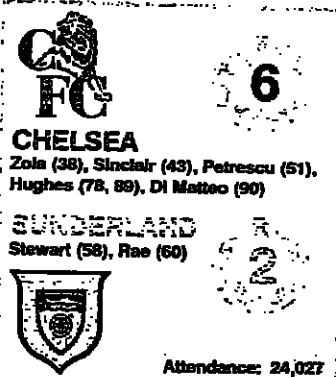
Equals in the field of martial arts  
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## TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 17 1997

SUNDERLAND'S PLIGHT DEEPENS AT THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS

## Zola the man for all seasons

BY ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WITH spring very clearly in the Fulham Road air yesterday, the essence brought very different portents to Chelsea and to Sunderland. The gulf between a side seeking to justify itself as fit for European competition, and one desperate to avoid the drop out of the FA Carling Premiership, was hugely apparent.

There were eight goals, six yellow cards, all for violent tackles, a miniature fightback by Sunderland when they were three goals down, and for Chelsea, a warning that with goalkeeping like this they must take nothing for granted in the FA Cup semi-final against Wimbledon.

The priorities yesterday were so very different. Chelsea had been told often enough by Ruud Gullit, their manager, to maintain their

## PREMIERSHIP

|                   | P  | W  | D  | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Man Utd           | 30 | 17 | 9  | 4  | 59 | 33 | 59  |
| Liverpool         | 30 | 16 | 9  | 5  | 51 | 28 | 57  |
| Arsenal           | 31 | 18 | 6  | 7  | 51 | 28 | 57  |
| Newcastle         | 29 | 15 | 8  | 6  | 38 | 35 | 51  |
| Sheff Wed         | 30 | 12 | 12 | 6  | 39 | 35 | 48  |
| Aston Villa       | 30 | 13 | 8  | 9  | 35 | 27 | 47  |
| Chelsea           | 29 | 10 | 7  | 12 | 30 | 43 | 46  |
| Wimbledon         | 28 | 12 | 8  | 8  | 40 | 35 | 44  |
| Leeds             | 31 | 11 | 7  | 13 | 24 | 32 | 40  |
| Tottenham         | 29 | 11 | 5  | 13 | 35 | 38 | 38  |
| Blackburn         | 29 | 10 | 7  | 13 | 34 | 41 | 37  |
| Blackburn         | 29 | 8  | 12 | 9  | 32 | 28 | 36  |
| Derby             | 30 | 9  | 9  | 12 | 31 | 45 | 36  |
| Sunderland        | 31 | 8  | 9  | 14 | 28 | 47 | 33  |
| Coventry          | 31 | 8  | 9  | 14 | 28 | 47 | 33  |
| West Ham          | 29 | 7  | 8  | 14 | 27 | 39 | 29  |
| Nottingham Forest | 31 | 6  | 11 | 14 | 28 | 47 | 29  |
| Southampton       | 29 | 6  | 8  | 15 | 37 | 48 | 26  |
| Middlesbrough     | 28 | 7  | 7  | 14 | 40 | 50 | 26  |

† Middlesbrough deducted three points

concentration, to lace their undoubted virtue with a determination to win league matches. Sunderland have a coarser aim: to squeeze every morsel of effort out of limited professionals, to survive no matter how they look in the process.

For that reason there was still a stalemate after 38 minutes. Wise, orchestrating his team from midfield, set the degrading mark of studs into the shin of Bracewell, but also managed to show much perception, much accuracy, in his legitimate work. However, Bridges, with a header over the bar, and Mullin, his partner, save, forced Grodas to a reflex save, could both have put Sunderland ahead moments before Chelsea actually did score, with the most thrilling goal of the eight.

It came from Zola. Surprised? Of course not. He has never stopped illuminating English games since he came here before the winter and,



Vialli, a late substitute for Chelsea, flies into a challenge with Perez, the beleaguered Sunderland goalkeeper, at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

now that spring is sprung, he has not lost the appetite. Petrescu, the Romanian, created the opening with marvellous invention of his own, stepping over the ball, turning, and intuitively reversing the pass to Zola. The Italian, perfectly balanced, volleyed the shot right-footed past a helplessly stranded Perez, a Frenchman who makes goalkeeping appear every bit as theatrical as Grobbelaar does.

That was the 38th minute, and Zola became the provider four minutes later. Receiving a short corner from Wise on the right, he swivelled on the ball, swung it with his left foot high into the goalmouth and though Myers missed it, Sinclair, behind him, met the ball

with a downward header for his first goal of the season for Chelsea.

When, six minutes after half-time, Wise and Di Matteo produced sweet counter-attacking skills, Zola had the goal at his mercy once again. Perez denied him with a jack-knife dive to push the ball away, but Petrescu gleefully pounced on the rebound to score.

Chelsea's vengeance for losing 3-0 to Sunderland at Roker Park was apparently complete.

Wise was fortunate to stay on the pitch, receiving no more than a lecture for an elbow into the face of Bridges, but this resort to uncouth play seemed only to herald the spirited revival from Sunderland.

On the hour, and two minutes

after it, Sunderland scored. Grodas, one of four goalkeepers Chelsea have used this season, did his utmost to give the advantage away. His vulnerability beneath the high ball was grotesque, his judgment timid and almost comical.

When Kelly loomed the ball, rugby-style, beneath his crossbar, Grodas leapt punched it, presenting Stewart with a free header into his net. Two minutes later, another high ball, more panic around the goalkeeper, and after Melville had a shot blocked by the leg of Clarke, Rae prodded the ball over the line from seven yards. Both Sunderland substitutes had scored, and Peter Reid, the manager, had

reformed his side into a 3-5-2 formation, reflecting Chelsea's own style.

The thuggery was not yet spent. Rae, the fourth member of the Sunderland team to lunge into unfair tackles, put Myers out of the game, and out for an indeterminate period. "The shin is all over the place because of the studs of the opposition," Gullit said.

That foul created a cameo role for Paul Parker, a defender on loan, a wanderer of the league, and only the fourth player in 90 years to pull on the shirts of Chelsea, Queens Park Rangers and Fulham, the complete West London set.

Gradually, Chelsea's elegant skills began to mean more than the

effort, the desperation, of Sunderland. In the 78th minute it became 4-2 when Hughes, contolling a loose ball 30 yards out, muscled his way through Melville's weak challenge, and then, as Perez came towards him, easily side-footed home.

The same player, still hungry in his 33rd year, claimed a second goal a minute from time when Vialli, on at last as a substitute, broke through an almost non-existent defence. Before Sunderland could regroup, before anyone could blink, the quality of Petrescu had fashioned the sixth goal, eagerly finished by Di Matteo.

For Chelsea, six goals for the first time since 1990. For Sunderland?

"We've got Nottingham Forest next week", Reid said. "We've got to get back to solid, defensive basics by then. I think the word kamikaze comes to mind for what happened today."

Zola is a terrific player, the game may have been entertaining in a popcorn sort of way, but we have to stay in this division, and to do that we've got to do what was our best feature this season — defend properly."

**CHELSEA** (3-5-2): F. Grodas — F. Sinclair, S. Clarke, A. Myers (sub: P. Parker, 67min) — D. Petrescu, R. Di Matteo, D. Wise, C. Barclay, S. Morris — M. Hughes, G. Zola (sub: G. Vialli, 84)

**SUNDERLAND** (4-4-2): L. Perez — G. Hall (sub: A. Rae, 46), A. Melville, R. Orr, D. Kubicki — D. Kelly, P. Bracewell, K. Ball, M. Gray — M. Bridges (sub: L. Howey, 80), J. Mullin (sub: P. Stewart, 46)

Referee: G. Willard

# IT'S 100% ARE

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WHITFIELD



# BBC's league of nations will be hard to top

No more Arms Park, no more Parc des Princes, no more Rob Andrew and Jonathan Davies. And — though this was one last hurrah that the corporation did not allude to on Saturday afternoon — no more BBC monopoly of the five nations' rugby union championship. Next season live coverage of England's home matches will be in the hands of Sky Sports.

The Beeb was clearly determined to go out in style, despite England's inconvenient defeat against France a fortnight earlier. The championship was still at stake — at least theoretically — and for the first time in years it decided, ambitiously, to show both final-round matches live. *Grandstand* screened the first half from Paris before devoting itself to the whole of the

game in Cardiff, while the second half of the France-Scotland match was picked up by BBC2.

In all, there were four hours of coverage on one channel and an hour on the other, but not even the most expert channel-hopper could properly watch both games at once. Why the organisers of a championship consisting of only ten matches have thought it prudent for years to play the fixtures on five afternoons rather than five Saturdays and Sundays must baffle anyone who has never run an amateur sport.

That, though, was nothing to do with the BBC and, although there was rich potential for half-fumbling on its part, it came through the afternoon well, despite some most unpromising early signs. For a start, the trend for

SIMON WILDE

TV ACTION REPLAY

modern sportsmen to swap boots for microphone had been sent into alarming reverse.

Rob Andrew, one of the BBC's regular summarisers, had been unexpectedly recalled to the England replacements' bench, while Jonathan Davies, who has also imparted expert analysis recently, was chosen to start his first game for Wales in nine years.

The BBC responded by calling up Jonathan Callard as a late replacement for Andrew, while Arwel Thomas, whose injury enabled Davies to play,

Rory Underwood and Nigel Walker were also asked to give viewers the benefit of their wisdom.

Unfortunately, their remarks did not often progress from first-phase platitudes to second-phase insights, and judging by Steve Rider's wistful remarks, as we watched Andrew arrive at the Arms Park, he feared as much.

Nor did things start happily in Paris. For several minutes there was interference on sound, as though we were listening to Bill McLaren from the top of a windy flag-pole

situated in the Place de la Concorde.

And, as we were run through the teams, mugshot by mugshot, the face of the Princess Royal suddenly appeared, placing her somewhere in the midst of the Scotland scrum. She's keen, but not that keen.

It was also soon apparent that there was to be a limit to the excitement as France took early control of their game, leaving Rider to grasp at a late first-half try by Scotland as evidence that they were not about to be routed. They were.

But it did not matter: it did not need a cliff-hanging afternoon to remind us of what we will miss on occasions next season.

Rugby union is a complex and seemingly chaotic game to all but the initiated and it needs a steady hand on the

tiller if the armchair enthusiast is to be nursed through an afternoon in the belief that he understands what he is watching.

The measured tones of the BBC's match commentators have done this skilfully for years and they will not be easily matched, as Sky Sports' evening screening of the game — delayed by 30 minutes because the Test match in Port of Spain overran — suggested.

One incident, after Andrew came on for the closing minutes at Cardiff, illustrated the point. He was soon feeding the ball to Carling, also probably playing his last England match. Nigel Starmer-Smith caught the pass effortlessly before continuing on his way: "... it's like memories of old, this line-up..." The poignancy of the moment passed the Sky team by.

## SQUASH

### Khan shows youngster he is still the master

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN  
IN LINZ

JANSHER KHAN, the world champion, has begun his European preparation for the British Open championship next month in all-too-familiar fashion, beating a young and promising challenger to take the Austrian Open title.

This time it was Dan Jensen, a tall, likeable 21-year-old from Adelaide, ranked No 18 in the world, who had reached the final with sparkling wins over Derek Ryan, the Irish champion, Zarak Jahan, the Pakistan No 2, and, for the first time, Rodney Eyles, the world No 2. He fought well for 62 minutes, before losing 15-6, 11-15, 15-13, 15-10.

Jensen had a couple of previous clashes against Jansher to build on, each offering glimpses of success. This was his first final against the Pakistani master and he was 13-1 down in the 11-minute opening game before he adjusted to the concentrated precision assault that Jansher develops in the later stages of tournaments.

"You have to look on these occasions as learning opportunities," Jensen said. "A year ago I would never have recovered from that sort of blitz, but here I kept my game together and managed to mount my own offensive when he let down a bit in the second and third games."

Jensen certainly contributed to a final that pleased a huge crowd at the all-transparent showcourt mounted on the main concourse of the Arcade shopping centre. For the world champion, it was merely the start of another chapter that he believes will maintain his superiority for some years to come.

"I cannot see anyone in the game who can threaten me for two or three years at least," Jansher, 28, said. He still aims to win at least ten World Open titles and six British Opens to reach the record of six world titles and ten British Opens achieved by Jahangir Khan, his legendary compatriot.

"I have beaten five different people in British finals and I cannot see anyone stopping me getting the sixth this year," he said. "Then the World Open becomes the most important target for me."

"My body is good. I can play for another three or four years, probably. I want to make a record that will never be beaten and I see nobody who can stop me."

Australia's position in the women's game has a more positive outlook than Jansher allows their men. The low-ranked women's Australian Open final was won by Kate Major, the left-handed component of a pair of athletically gifted twin sisters from New South Wales, who look set to follow in the footsteps of Sarah Fitzgerald and Michelle Martin, the Australians who lead the world.

Major defeated Narelle Tippet, another promising young Australian, 9-2, 9-10, 9-4, 9-6 in 43 minutes.

## RUGBY LEAGUE: HALIFAX PAY HARSH PENALTY WITH DEFEAT AT CENTRAL PARK

### Schuster lets Wigan off hook

Wigan Warriors ..... 20  
Halifax Blue Sox ..... 18

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WIGAN were staring at a defeat when they pulled a try out of the top drawer to take the lead. Then, suddenly, a draw looked the best that they could hope for when John Schuster, the prolific Halifax kicker, lined up an attempt at goal in added time that he would normally convert with his eyes shut.

Schuster somehow dragged an effort from 20 metres across the face of the post. He could not believe his miss, nor Wigan their luck in the last action of a vortuous clash



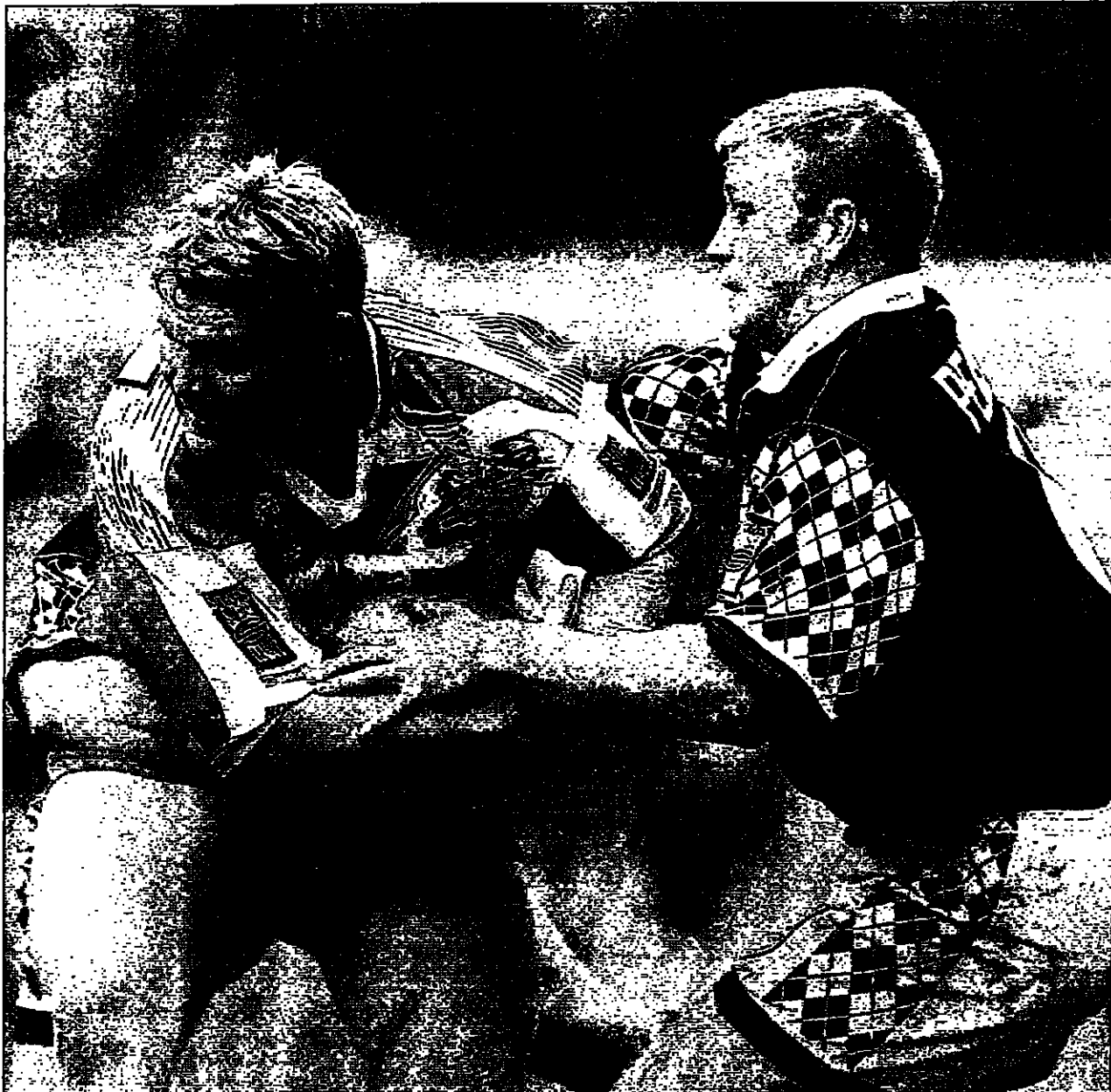
Results ..... 39

yesterday. Few games in the Stones Super League will scale the same heights this season, or will be as nerve-racking from Wigan's perspective.

Wigan trailed by 12 points at the break, fought back to lead and slipped behind again, until a moment of inspiration by the outstanding Andy Farrell, the Wigan and Great Britain captain, rescued them from what looked like being their first home defeat since February 1994.

Farrell, taking his cue from Cassidy's bustling break from acting half back, hurled up the right and, 30 metres out, timed his scoring pass to Andy Johnson to perfection. That made it 18-15 and Farrell, who had not taken the place-kicking duties because of a groin problem, assumed the responsibility from Paul and added the conversion to put Wigan two points in front.

All Wigan had to do then was defend their line. It took a magnificent tackle by Radlinski to prevent Moana



Cowie, left, looks for support from his Wigan team-mates, but is stopped in his tracks by the Halifax defence

sything through. After the ensuing scramble, Murdoch, the Wigan scrum half, was sin-binned for a professional foul. Schuster had landed three kicks from four attempts, including one from a touchline, but his sure-footedness deserted him.

Farrell conceded his side's luck, but he praised the efforts of a young team, that was without Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly, in digging deep. "It shows the character of the team: we were very determined not to lose," he said. "Even 12-0 down at half-time, there was still a lot of heart in the dressing-room."

These are turbulent times at Wigan and an opening league

defeat would only have added to the impression of a crumbling empire. A sterling first-half performance by Halifax ended with Wigan being jeered off at the interval. In the proverbial game of two halves, though, their critics among the 11,566 crowd were stunned into silence.

The display of Karl Harrison, the Halifax captain, in offloading the ball in the tackle and priming his troops was little short of astonishing. Wigan, bereft of ideas, had no answer to tries by Pearson and Tuilagi as Halifax hit them up the middle and moved the ball wide.

In defence, too, Halifax looked impregnable, until

Wigan finally got passes to stick and supported the ball carrier in a six-man breakout that brought a try for Paul Johnson. Two further scores in three minutes down Halifax's vulnerable left side, by Ellison and Tallic — the second after another superb pass by Farrell — threatened to transform the game.

It swung Halifax's way again, though, as Wigan managed to hold up Tuilagi, but found no way of stopping Schuster's conversion put Halifax four points ahead, but Andy Johnson's 70th-minute try and the extra points added by Farrell looked to have secured victory for Wigan.

A drawn game at home to London Broncos was Wigan's downfall in the Super League last season. Fate seemed destined to repeat itself when Moana was prevented from playing the ball by Murdoch and Schuster stepped up. The relief around Central Park at his miss was palpable.

SCORERS: Wigan Warriors: Tries: P Johnson, Ellison, Tallic, A Johnson, Goals: Paul, Farrell. Halifax Blue Sox: Tries: Pearson, Tuilagi, Ellison, Goals: Schuster (3). WIGAN WARRIORS: D Murray, P Johnson, A Johnson, K Radlinski, D Ellison, H Paul, C Murdoch, T O'Connor, M Hall, N Cowie, S Holgate, M Cassidy, A Farrell. Substitutes: A Gilmore, G Tallic, S Leslie, S Harrison. HALIFAX BLUE SOX: M Unwin, F Tuilagi, J Schuster, A Aronson, D Bowring, M Pearson, W Pearson, K Harrison, P Rowley, W Johnson, M Jackson, S Bullock, M Moana. Substitutes: B Greenwood, C Gillespie, M Pearson, J Shearer. Referee: S Prockey (Castleford)

## Coussons sweeps in to prevent stalemate

Salford ..... 4  
Castleford ..... 0

By A CORRESPONDENT

UNLIKE their Challenge Cup win over Castleford last month, which sparked a run that has swept them to the semi-final stage, Salford's Super League victory at The Willows yesterday was far less emphatic. Only a try by Coussons, their left wing, after 18 minutes prevented stalemate.

Though denied a competitive fixture in the five weeks since the sides last met, Castleford demonstrated that they had not wasted their time. In many ways they could

be considered unlucky at not finishing at least on level terms or, had they brought on Steadman sooner, even a win.

But for solid, often outstanding, defence, both lines could have been breached on at least three occasions. Nothing in the final scoreline hints of the enterprising level of play that both sides attempted. Yet, at the end, the contest lacked a player with a genuine cutting edge, a role that Cartwright might have filled for Salford had he not retired injured after 13 minutes.

With the cup-tie against St Helens approaching, this must be of some concern to Andy Gregory, the Salford coach. Rogers, who never put a foot wrong in defence, was

his most potent attacker — especially on the counter — but, though Blakeley danced prettily, he rarely achieved a worthwhile opening.

Castleford shuffled their hand repeatedly in an attempt to find the combination that would break down Salford and looked at their most dangerous when Steadman and Tony Smith, their Great Britain half back, in whom Wigan are reportedly interested, were together.

With Castleford handling unskillfully early on, Salford had the better of the territorial battle, but it was not until midway through the first half that McAvoy, drawing Chris Smith in from the wing, put Coussons in the clear.

Blakeley failed to convert from wide out and then missed a penalty from in front of the posts after Flowers just beat McAvoy for the touch-down — although Salford's supporters felt that it was Forber, following through, who probably made the only legitimate touch.

Chris Smith's scampering runs up the left flank began to trouble Salford for the first time and, on the stroke of half-time, they were lucky to survive when he ran 60 metres only to be collared by Rogers less than a metre from the line.

Castleford became bolder after the interval, but it was after a break by Rogers that

the next near miss came. Flowers just taking out Coussons in the corner.

Failure to apply downward pressure then cost Middleton a golden chance to put Castleford at least on level terms when he pursued a grub kick by Tony Smith, and, though Steadman appeared to have broken clear for one last scoring chance for Castleford eight minutes from time, his legs let him down.

SCORERS: Salford: Tries: Coussons, Salford: REDS: D Rogers, F Siv, S Taylor, M McAvoy, P Coussons, S Blakeley, M Lee, P Southern, P Edwards, C Eades, P Forber, J Cartwright, C Randall, Substitutes: S Martin, L Saville, W Wilson, E Farnelle. CASTLEFORD TIGERS: J Flowers, S Middleton, R Goodland, R Gray, C Smith, A Woods, D Orr, J Crooks, L St Hill, D Sampson, L Hyland, S Richardson, D Tuilagi, Substitutes: J Smith, G Steadman, N Shearer, J Shearer. Referee: S Cunningham

## EQUESTRIANISM: GLORIOUS RETURN FOR FOX-PITT AT ALDON HORSE TRIALS

### Cosmopolitan shows no sign of ring rustiness

By JENNY MACARTHUR

WILLIAM Fox-Pitt and Cosmopolitan made a triumphant return to competition with a convincing win in their advanced intermediate section of the Aldon Horse Trials in Somerset yesterday.

The ten-year-old gelding has not competed since Atlanta last July, but he betrayed little sign of ring rustiness. An

excellent dressage test, earning a score of 26, was followed by a faultless showjumping round and a copybook performance over Aldon's cross-country course.

Fox-Pitt, who also finished seventh on Vital Decision in the open intermediate section, intends to give Cosmopolitan four more outings before Badminton in May.

Pippa Funnell, a former national champion, completed a successful weekend with a win in the second advanced intermediate section on Denise Lincoln's Achelschwang-winner, Rainbow Magic.

Badminton contenders were out in force and Mary King enjoyed a win, for the second successive week, on King William in the open intermediate section.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Montgomerie fades after fine start

COLIN MONTGOMERIE faced a test of endurance going into the final round of the Honda Classic golf tournament yesterday, three strokes behind Stuart Appleby, at Heron Bay, Fort Lauderdale. With 36 holes to be played on the final day, Montgomerie completed the first 18 in 70, two under par, but had only 12 minutes to rest before heading back to the first tee on 206, ten under par.

Montgomerie, the European No 1, attempting to win his first tournament in the United States, hit the pin at the short 2nd for a tap-in birdie, and took a share of the lead when he also birdied the 5th from 12 feet, but the back nine proved more difficult in a gusting wind and he slipped three adrift of Appleby, of Australia, who had seven birdies in a 67. Ian Woosnam returned a 71 for a three-round total of 207, but Bernhard Langer faded to 211, also after a 71.

### Douglas defies the years

TABLE TENNIS: Desmond Douglas showed that, at 41, he is probably still good enough to play for England, after losing in four games to Alan Cooke, the defending champion, in the semi-finals of the English national championships at Brighton yesterday. Douglas beat Alex Perry, the young left-handed England international, 21-14, 21-14, 21-18 in the quarter-finals. Cooke was beaten in the final by Matthew Syed, 21-19, 21-8, 21-8.

### Third title for McRae

MOTOR RALLYING: Alister McRae and the Volkswagen team enjoyed a commanding victory in the Vauxhall Rally of Wales — the opening round of the British rally championship — on Saturday. McRae, 26, from Lanark, is the first driver to win the rally three times. McRae's Golf GTI crossed the finish ramp more than a minute clear of Gwynndaf Evans (Ford) after two days of competition. Mark Higgins took third place for Nissan.

### Ulihrach's run continues

TENNIS: Michael Chang, the No 3 seed, beat Thomas Muster 6-1, 7-6 on Saturday to earn the chance to defend his Champions Cup title against Bohdan Ulihrach, the surprise Czech finalist, at Indian Wells, California. Ulihrach followed his victory over Pete Sampras by beating Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, 6-3, 6-2.

### Wiberg shares spoils

SKIING: Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, the overall champion, and Lara Magoni, of Italy, finished level in the slalom yesterday to share victory in the last competition of the women's Alpine World Cup season in Vail, Colorado. Katja Seizinger, of Germany, finished third, 0.54sec behind the winners.

### Eldredge warms up

ICE SKATING: Todd Eldredge drew first blood against Elvis Stojko, from Canada, the man he deposed as world figure skating champion last year, when the 1997 competition began in Lausanne, Switzerland, yesterday. Eldredge, of the United States, won the first group of qualifying that will reduce the field from 45 to 30.

### Queensland through

CRICKET: Queensland yesterday reached the Sheffield Shield final, against Western Australia, in Perth on Friday. Queensland defeated South Australia by 137 runs, while Tasmania, their main rival, fell to New South Wales in the final round of matches. New South Wales, set 305 runs off 67 overs, reached their target with six wickets to spare.

### Opening for Boycott

CRICKET: Geoff Boycott, the former England opener and now one of the game's most outspoken pundits, will take over from David Mellor as host of Six-O-Six, BBC Radio 5 Live's top-rated Saturday phone-in programme, for the summer. Boycott's show begins on May 24, the date of England's second one-day international with Australia.

## HOCKEY

### England find youth is equal to challenge

Pakistan ..... 1  
England ..... 1

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN  
IN KARACHI

ENGLAND exceeded expectation by holding Pakistan, the world champions, to a draw in the five nations Golden Jubilee tournament here yesterday. With young talent eager to assert itself and only limited experience available, England disrupted Pakistan's high-powered forwards with tight marking and swift tackling.

This is not to say that England's outlook was defensive: in the end it was the Pakistani defence that was in trouble and with a little luck England might have won.

Pakistan began so strongly that it seemed only a matter of time before they would score; but their attacks broke down and England started to assert themselves. Pickcock, in his first appearance for his country, shone at centre half. In the 44th minute England took the lead when Garcia took a return pass from Peart and scored with a superb shot.

Pakistan retaliated with a goal by Mohammed Shahbaz after a centre from the right by Mohammed Ali.

Earlier, Holland came from behind to beat Australia 3-2 with Veen scoring the winning goal in the 54th minute. England play Germany in the only match today.

PAKISTAN: Maroof Ahsaidi, Danish Akram, Tariq Inan, Khan Mahmood, Mohammed Anis, Waseem Anwar, Mohammed Ali, Tariq Zaman, Yamin Akmal, Mohammed Shabbaz, Barar Ahsaidi. Substitutes used: Fiaz Khan. ENGLAND: D Lister, J Wallis, B Garcia, S Humphrey, G Forshaw, B Sharpe, J Peacock, J Lee, D Hall, R Garcia, R Ouchley. Substitutes used: W Walsh, N Connors, S Head, M Peart. Umpires: D Prior (Aus), C Seabrook (Eng)

### Cup defeat cuts short Olton's joy

By ALIX RAMSAY

LIFE at the top is seldom easy, but every now and then fate makes it tougher than usual. On Saturday Olton, first division leaders in the women's national league, were celebrating the fact that promotion to the premier division was assured; but 24 hours later they had been brought down to earth by Ipswich, the premier division leaders, who dispatched them 4-0 in the fifth round of the AEWHA Cup.

Two goals from Lucy Youngs and one each from Kirsten Spencer and Sandie Lister in the first half quickly settled the outcome. It was a good weekend for Lister and Ipswich. Lister, the former England captain, does not usually get her name on the scoresheet, but she opened the Ipswich account when they beat Doncaster 3-1 on Saturday to stretch their lead to four points at the top of the table.

Slough, who are chasing hard to recapture their league title, slipped up on Saturday, losing 2-0 at Clifton, before defeating Leicester 3-1 in the cup with goals by Mandy Nicholls (two) and Jane Smith. Leicester, though, have given themselves a chance in the premier division with a 2-0 win over Trojans that lifts them into fifth place after propping up the table for much of the season.

Canterbury will represent the first division in the quarter-finals of the cup after defeating Chelmsford 3-2, while Aldridge are the only non-league side left in the competition, thanks to a 1-0 win over Crimston Ramblers with a goal by Terry Taylor.

**THE SANYO CUP**  
1997 RUGBY UNION  
**ENGLISH CLUB CHAMPIONS**  
v  
**WORLD XV**  
AT TWICKENHAM  
Saturday 24 May 1997 Kick Off 3.00pm  
TICKETS: ADULTS: £20 & £15, JUNIOR: £10 & £5, 17  
& under £5 (incl. club). FAMILY TICKETS: £35 (2 adults &  
2 juniors) & £25 (2 adults & 2 juniors). (All prices incl. VAT &  
2 p.p.h. for parking. All tickets subject to availability.)  
TICKET OFFICE: RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION,  
TWICKENHAM, MIDDLESEX TW9 1SE  
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Please allow only Post Ticketmaster on 0171 344 4444)



## Italy's overdue introduction and change in format would set seal on a vintage championship



Jonathan Davies, left, bids a forlorn farewell to Cardiff Arms Park, where Andrew, right, temporarily renewed acquaintances with Will Carling during England's victory over Wales. Photographs: Marc Aspland



Laurent Leflamand, right, and Fabien Pelous celebrate France's crushing victory over Scotland

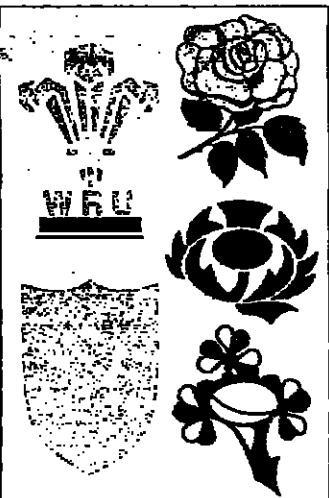
## French polish adds gloss to grand theatre

It was a vintage five nations' championship. The professional revolution brought us some of the finest rugby seen for years and unprecedented levels of physical endurance, skill and the number of tries and points scored. Now is the time for evolution. If Italy is not allowed in next year, it would be a nonsense. Furthermore, instead of being stretched out over ten weeks, a six-nation tournament needs to be held on five consecutive weekends.

If rugby union is serious about developing the game in Europe, Italy must be admitted. Their victory in Ireland earlier this season and the way that they pushed Wales and Scotland showed that they would hardly be out of place. By shortening and concentrating the span of an expanded championship, you would replicate an annual basis the demands of the World Cup every four years. The World Cup is the sport's litmus test.

Everything about a five or six-nation tournament needs to be geared towards what is required for winning at the highest level. England and France will not delude themselves that the standard of competition provided by Wales, Scotland and Ireland is what is required to beat the southern-hemisphere nations. The

ROB ANDREW



emphasis must be on developing and honing the championship. The point about Italy is that it is wrong to hold them back any longer. In whose interest is it to keep them out? European rugby can grow stronger by their inclusion. Moreover, by isolating the championship for a five-week period, instead of dragging it out, you can assist the difficult process of building a structure for the season, in which club rugby can take a back seat for a short time, instead

of being disrupted over 2½ months.

By having national squads together for a concentrated period, continuity and team harmony are just two aspects that can be improved. By facing the southern-hemisphere nations before Christmas and playing five matches in five weeks in a six-nation championship, England can only get better. Everything needs to be directed towards a successful and, hopefully, winning World Cup campaign in 1999.

The evidence since January is that England and France have taken significant strides. It is history that England threw away a grand slam. When the score against Wales on Saturday reached 20-0, on the bench and on the pitch there was a sense of needing to tighten the screw after what happened against France. In the preparation for the match, it was all about turning that negative into a positive.

It was an honour and a surprise to be called into the squad, and a privilege to play a few more unexpected minutes of international rugby. Jack Rowell must be getting nostalgic. I really did not expect to get on. I said to him that, if ever they needed me for a triple crown or grand-slam decider, with five minutes to go and the match won, just give me a call ... no,

really, that is me finished with the international scene.

It was wonderful to say goodbye properly to Jonathan Davies and the Arms Park and get a final run-out alongside Will Carling. Will Will go? Probably he would if pushed to make a choice immediately, but he is going to ponder over the summer and, knowing him, after a few months' rest and with matches against the southern-hemisphere countries coming up, he might be raring to go again.

The demands of five nations' rugby, physically and mentally, are exhausting. The toll of injuries has been significant. You need a big squad and that is where England have got their pyramid structure right in terms of the Emerging England, under-21 and A teams. Young players such as Phil Greening can slot in at hooker with apparent ease. An adequate structure, particularly at club level, is where the other home nations are suffering.

England are bound to make up the bulk of the British Isles squad for South Africa. Saturday was an emotional day for oldies like myself, but England have produced some impressive young guns. Richard Hill, on the open-side flank, has been the find of the season. Greening is a rare talent. Simon Shaw has made giant strides at lock and Tim Stimpson's season at full back has been about steady improvement towards easily his best display on Saturday.

### A RECORD YEAR

- The 1996-97 five nations' championship produced 53 tries, far in excess of the post-war record of 41 and only two short of the all-time record established in 1911.
- The ten games in the championship produced 511 points, demolishing the previous best mark of 363 in 1991.
- England registered 141 points, well beyond their previous best of 118, established in 1992. France also set a new mark of 129 points (as against 98 in 1986) on their way to a grand slam. Scotland's total of 90 was their best.
- France's tally of 14 tries was their best in a championship.
- England enjoyed their biggest scores against Scotland (41) and Ireland (46) and equalled their best of 34 against Wales. France's 47 points against Scotland was their biggest while Scotland's 38 against Ireland was another record.
- Scotland had never conceded a century of points until this season, when their opponents scored 132 (their previous worst was 85 in 1977). Ireland recorded a tally of 141 against, also beating their previous worst of 116 in 1992.

What struck me about the England camp was the confidence that the players have. Mentally, they are so fine-tuned, which stems from professionalism at clubs. France rediscovered all their old flair and panache in securing the grand slam. They are way up there in the world order. It has been a two-horse race. Wales, for all the talk about their improvement, still took a 21-point hiding from England and, like Scotland and Ireland, won only one match. I do not say that Wales, Scotland and Ireland cannot win a championship again, but, on the professional path, they have a long way to catch up France and England.

Grand celebrations, page 28  
England triple tops, page 29

### GOLF: SWEDE REMAINS COOL UNDER PRESSURE TO FEND OFF OLAZABAL'S CHALLENGE IN CLAIMING FIRST TOUR VICTORY

## Jonzon confounds the odds

FROM MEL WEBB  
IN LISBON

SO THE Honest Joes of Britain did not, after all, get it right. All week Jack Maria Olazabal had questioned the sanity of the bookmakers who had installed him as favourite to win the Portuguese Open at Aroeira, and yesterday he was proved right — just. At one time he was only a shot behind Michael Jonzon, but in the end Jonzon, from Sweden, completed his maiden PGA European Tour victory with a closing 69 and a total of 269, 19 under par.

Jonzon, 24, won by three shots from Ignacio Garrido, who marched through the field to record a faultless 65. Seven birdies and not a hint of a bogey left Garrido three in front of Paul Broadhurst and four ahead of Olazabal, who put the squeeze on Jonzon with an early birdie, only to fade on the inward half to drop three shots and finish with 74, his only round above par of the tournament.

Olazabal insisted throughout that he was still testing himself and his tender feet and that a victory would be pleasing but surprising. That he managed to finish in a tie for fourth place alongside Ste-

phen Allan, Darren Clarke and Wayne Riley, the defending champion, was a triumph in itself.

Olazabal has only the slightest of rough edges to polish off his game to restore it to its diamond-bright best after his 18-month tussle against wracking pain. He plays in the Turespana Masters in Gran Canaria this week and nobody, not least his fellow golfers, would be surprised if he were to win.

Jonzon, meanwhile, showed all the sang-froid of a seasoned veteran. He was 36th in the money-list in his first season on tour in 1995 and was narrowly beaten for the rookie of the year title by Jarmo Sandelin, his compatriot, but went into free-fall last year, finishing 107th. He started this tournament 113th in the

order of merit — now he is seventh.

He had not only himself to beat on this final day but also the evil eye being beamed at him with basilisk directness by the gallery. They made no bones about it, they wanted Olazabal to win. It should have been daunting, but these golfing Swedes are cool customers.

"I was surprised at how relaxed I felt today," he said. "I felt more tense yesterday, actually. I didn't want to worry too much about what the others were doing and I managed to keep my mind on my game."

That he did, but he must have felt a tiny flutter below the belt when Olazabal birdied the 2nd hole to close to within a shot. It was a moment when visceral fortitude was

needed and he demonstrated that he had it with birdies on the 4th, 5th, 7th and 9th. With Olazabal picking up a shot at the 4th but dropping it again at the 8th, Jonzon turned five strokes ahead.

The key moment came at the par-five 10th. Jonzon cast his ball into the trees and, with the help of a hundred or more spectators, found a ball on the cusp of his five minutes' searching time. Elation was followed by misery when he discovered that it was not his, so he had to trudge back to the tee and reload under penalty. Before long he was looking at a double-bogey seven while Olazabal had a put for birdie.

It might easily have been a three-shot swing, but a dangerous moment was averted when Olazabal missed from ten feet and Jonzon rolled in a 20-foot putt for as good a bogey-six as he will ever record. Only one stroke lost.

After that it was plain sailing. Jonzon had a couple of bogeys on the back nine, but, with Olazabal tiring, the issue had been settled and Jonzon's birdie on the 16th was an irrelevance. The icy Swede had prevailed over the hot favourite. The bookies, yet again, could keep their cash in their big brown satchels.



Jonzon displays the trophy after the victory that took him to seventh in the European order of merit

### FINAL SCORES FROM LISBON

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated  
269: M Jonzon (Swe) 67, 65, 68, 69, 272;  
I Garrido (Sp) 69, 71, 67, 65, 272;  
Broadhurst 68, 67, 67, 73, 276;  
D Clarke 70, 71, 68, 67, 73, 276;  
S Allan (Aus) 69, 73, 67, 70, 71, 68, 67, 73, 276;  
W Riley (Aus) 68, 68, 71, 71, 71;  
J-M Olazabal (Sp) 70, 67, 65, 74, 277;  
Garrido 70, 71, 67, 68, 77, 278;  
M Moulend 72, 69, 69, 68, 71, 69, 69, 69;  
J Caceres (Arg) 71, 69, 69, 69, 69;  
S Grappasonni (It) 71, 65, 70, 72, 72;  
O'Malley (Aus) 65, 69, 72, 72, 72;  
M James 70, 68, 70, 72, 72, 72;  
R Russell 69, 69, 68, 72, 72;  
R Rafferty 73, 69, 70, 67, 71;  
(Aus) 68, 70, 72, 69; A Hunter 71, 68, 71.

69: J Rovers (Sp) 71, 69, 69, 70; A Ceja (Esp) 69, 70, 69, 71; P Alcock 69, 69, 70, 71; J van de Velde (Fr) 73, 69, 69, 71; A Tomori (Japen) 72, 70, 66, 71; R Lee 71, 68, 67, 73; M Davis 68, 69, 67, 74; V Phillips 67, 68, 70, 74, 280; S Moshier 71, 71, 71, 67; P Linhart (Sp) 68, 71, 72, 69; M Angert (Swe) 66, 74, 71, 69; D Chopra (Swe) 72, 68, 71, 68; J Robson 72, 70, 68, 70; M A Marín (Sp) 70, 68, 72; D Borrego (Sp) 69, 70, 68, 73, 281; A Bossert (Switz) 70, 73, 69, 69; P Cuny 70, 71, 70, 70; J-M Canicolas (Sp) 69, 73, 69, 70; P Gubica (Switz) 70, 69, 71, 71.

### ROWING

## Cambridge quickly into their stride

BY MIKE ROSEWELL

ROBIN WILLIAMS, the Cambridge coach, who had his contract extended for a further three years last week, pitted his finally selected 1997 crew against an impressive Imperial College and Queens Tower line-up on Saturday, which included seven members of the victorious 1996 Henley Grand crew and Jim Walker, the Olympian.

In the first contest, from Putney to Chiswick Steps, Cambridge, on Surrey, took a lead off the start, and, hitting an impressive rhythm at 35, led by one length at the Mile. Then, after Hammersmith, Cambridge stroked, on his back and a further clash just before Barnes Bridge produced equipment damage, some ripe repartee and an end to the afternoon's activity.

Overall, Cambridge took the honours and will not be seen on the Tideway again before Boat Race week. Unusually, neither will Oxford. Rene Mijnders, their Dutch coach, took them to Amsterdam this weekend to race in the Heineken regatta on the Amstel River, and they will remain there until Friday.

On Saturday Oxford beat the France national eight, with six Atlanta medal-winners on board, by eight seconds over 2,500 metres and then 0.3sec over 250 metres, with crews from Holland and Germany trailing in their wake.

Oxford continued impressively yesterday. The French won the 750-metre race by a third of a length, but, in the subsequent 5,000 metre contest, Oxford won by seven seconds, with a time of 14min 19sec proving fast in the prevailing headwind.

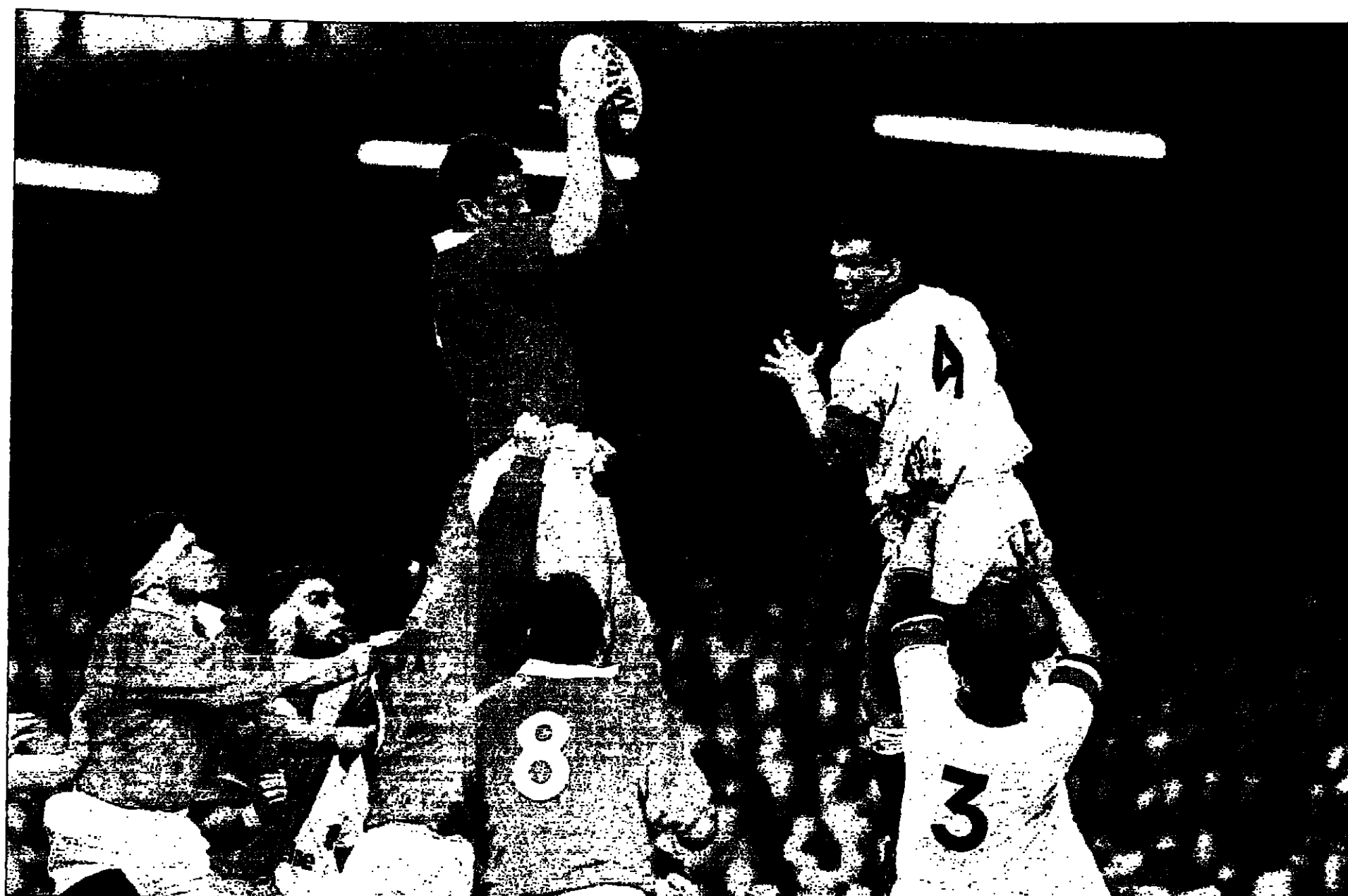
The finally selected Cambridge crew is: bow David Cassidy; 2 Roger Pim; 3 Ethan Ayer; 4 Brad Crombie; 5 Alex Story; 6 Alan Watson; 7 Damien Maltarp; stroke James Ball; cox Kevin Whyman.







## Decisive victory over Wales no guarantee of success in sterner tests to come



Llewellyn gives Wales an uplifting moment in the lineout, leaving Johnson to grasp at thin air at Cardiff Arms Park. Photographs: Marc Aspland

## England wear their crown uneasily

Wales.....13  
England.....34

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S fate this five nations' championship season is to leave their supporters wanting more. Commercially this may be a sound principle, but in sport it leads to frustration, to reflections of what might have been. Yet England's achievement, a twentieth triple crown, is about right for a side that must understand how much better it can become.

Over the course of the championship, which ended on Saturday, they have contributed as much unity, inaccurate rugby as they have produced constructive play, yet it is significant that their best periods have come against their best opponents — France and, before the championship, the New Zealand Barbarians. They can raise their game, but they need to do so higher and for more sustained periods, a point that will be emphasised next autumn, when they are required to face all three southern-hemisphere powers within a month.

The niggling feeling as the crowd quietly trooped away from Cardiff Arms Park and the bulldozers prepared to move in and raze the stadium was to wonder what the New Zealand Barbarians might have achieved against either Wales or England. If this seems to damn England's success with faint praise, it is their own aspirations — and their own failings — that have led to it.

There is no more frustrating sight than a side that works hard to achieve an attacking advantage and then wastes it, as England did three times, by conceding a penalty. Admittedly, on the third occasion, it seemed that Graham Rowntree had scored a perfectly good try from a rolling maul, but Joel Duménil, the French

referee, disagreed. Indeed, Duménil's decisions were not always comprehensible and all too often his use of advantage rewarded poor play by either side.

Yet we should not be too churlish. There were two uplifting performances to admire from England, over and above displays of genuine quality from Tim Rodber, Richard Hill and Simon Shaw. The first, and more obvious, came from Jeremy Guscott, the half-time replacement for Jon Sleightholme, who suffered blurred vision after Gareth Thomas's knee crashed into his head.

After a cameo performance against Ireland, Jack Rowell, the England coach, described Guscott as a "prince of centres". On Saturday Rowell acknowledged that Guscott would surely go to South Africa with the British Isles and would probably play in the internationals, so quite why he has spent a season among the replacements remains a pertinent question.

As a makeshift wing, his defence was outstanding and he created tries for Stimpson and Hill, the first of which

## CARDIFF DETAILS

SCORERS: Wales: Try: Howley. Conversion: J Davies. Penalty goals: J Davies (2). England: Tries: Stimpson, Underwood, Hill, De Glanville. Conversions: Catt (4). Penalty goals: Catt (2).

WALLES: N R Jenkins (Pontypridd); S D Hill (Cardiff); A G Bateman (Richmond); M G Davies (Llanelli); G Thomas (Bridgend); J Davies (Cardiff); R Howley (Cardiff); C D Loader (Swansea); J M Humphreys (Cardiff, captain); D Young (Cardiff); S M Williams (Neath); G O Llewellyn (Haverfordwest); M J Voyte (Llanelli); K P Jones (Ebbw Vale); L S Quinlan (Richmond); Jenkins replaced by W T Proctor (Llanelli, 15min). Loader replaced by S C John (Llanelli, 25); Jones replaced by D L M McIntosh (Pontypridd, 55); Voyte replaced by J C Quinlan (Richmond, 59).

ENGLAND: T R G Stimpson (Newcastle); J M Sleightholme (Bath); W D C Carling (Haverfordwest); P R de Glanville (Bath, captain); T Underwood (Newcastle); M J Catt (Bath); A Howley (Llanelli); S C Rowntree (Llanelli); M P Rugg (Bristol); J Leonard (Haverfordwest); B B Clarke (Richmond); M O Johnson (Leicester); S D Shaw (Bristol); R A Hill (Saracens); T A K Rodber (Northampton); Regan replaced by P B T Greening (Gloucester, 41min); Sleightholme replaced by J C Guscott (Bath, 41); Clarke replaced by C M A Sheehy (Widnes, 70); Catt replaced by C R Andrew (Newcastle, 73); Rowntree replaced by D J Gethin (Leicester, 78). Referee: J Duménil (France).

finally broke the dam of the Welsh defence. More significant, however, was the second coming of Michael Catt. Before Christmas, Catt was deemed, rightly, to have failed in the England No 10 shirt. Pressed into service against Wales after Paul Grayson's withdrawal, Catt offered his best-balanced display from 21 international appearances.

His judgment was mature, his kicking game — with only two exceptions — entirely accurate, the width of his passing and

his vision admirable and, to close, his slashing run from a tapped penalty created de Glanville's try. England's fourth.

Maybe it was the presence opposite of Jonathan Davies, the little maestro in the red jersey, maybe the presence on the replacements' bench of Rob Andrew, England's past master. Whatever the cause, Catt demonstrated that he can control a game without losing his fundamental running strengths. England's task next

season will be to decide whether to offer him further opportunities — which, given the accuracy of his goal-kicking (he missed only one kick out of seven), they may feel inclined to do — or to restore Grayson.

That Catt was given the chance to run England's show was due to an unselfish display by Austin Healey at scrum half, who started his first international. Healey, whether playing to orders or not, subdued his basic instincts and offered a nicely judged game. That Robert Howley, his opposite number, emerged in credit from the confrontation was as much because Howley was playing behind a pack which dwindled sadly in the second half, and because he had the individual genius to pick a 55-metre path to the try-line which ensured that at least a Welshman — in this case Davies — left the final signature at the old Arms Park.

That Davies, Carling and Andrew were together by the end was a sentimental touch. The best work of each veteran player was done in defence, Davies playing his heart out in what he must always have

known would be a losing cause. Even before the game, the Wales casualty list was a long one. When Jenkins broke his left forearm in the mêlée that followed de Glanville's early break, they also lost their leading points-scorer and a player showing, in his fifth international, all the confidence that Proctor, his replacement, could not.

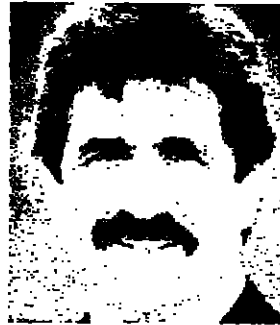
While Wales disrupted England's lineout, hope remained. England squandered their best opportunities. Sleightholme was twice denied and Catt's two penalty goals against one by Davies gave them the slimmest of interval advantages. Yet a 14-5 lineout lead for Wales in the first half turned into a 9-3 deficit in the second. The Wales back row made no impact compared with Rodber, who has strung together his most successful championship, and the increasingly influential Hill, who had a hand in the short-side try by Stimpson nine minutes into the second half.

When Carling's fly-half rebounded straight to Underwood, he had nobody in his way on a 60-metre run to the line, and suddenly England were almost out of sight. A turnover allowed Guscott to glide past two defenders and mesmerise three more before sending Hill over, and de Glanville followed him four minutes later. Stimpson would have added another but for a harsh judgment for foul play by Johnson.

Battered Wales, out but not down, still offered the most creative midfield player in Bateman, and Howley's mean defence (appreciably better organised than a year ago, Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, suggested) have conceded in this championship. To take it, Howley stepped twice off his left leg without losing a yard of pace. What he can yet achieve behind a ball-winning pack may be seen in South Africa.

## Rowell's claim mauled by skill shortage

GERALD DAVIES



At Cardiff Arms Park

This was a poor match for Ian McGeechan to witness before he embarks with the British Isles team to South Africa. He will be dismayed at the quality of the sides from which the majority of his players are likely to be drawn. The management of both Wales and England believe that they have made significant advances this season. This is true... to an extent.

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, believes that his team is continuing to make "good progress" in the quality of its play. Certainly Wales have played exciting rugby, but can only show a single victory in a season that had begun with high promise in Edinburgh. The only game in which Jonathan Humphreys, the Wales captain, felt they were well beaten was against England.

Yet while acknowledging this, they must also recognise the fundamental truth that they do not, as yet, have a sufficient number of players to call upon to perform on that plain. The pool of resources is shallow. The game on Saturday proved what most people had feared from Thursday onwards: that with so many withdrawals forced upon Wales, the advantage had inexorably shifted in England's favour.

With Gibbs absent, de Glanville and Carling must have slept more securely on Friday night. Thus Wales have found the style, but need to put it into practice more consistently. Perhaps they will find more players of the right calibre on their summer tour to North America. England's progress would appear to be the reverse.

They have made advances this year in that they now have a well-defined stock of players on which to call and for the Celtic countries to look upon with envy. England can be confident.

Furthermore, they have managed to score tries in a manner that had been singularly lacking in recent years. Their 15 tries contrast with three last year and nine the year before. They have also accumulated a record number of points (141) for their country in a championship. These are impressive figures that should leave them contented with their campaign, as any team would be.

The danger is that they may read more into the statistics than they should. They have the strength in depth. They have players of significant strength and size. This is their progress. They are not, however, playing in the style that they seem so ready to claim. The interactive game that they seek is not theirs yet and the question arises to what extent is it in the English rugby character to achieve it?

This team, like that of Geoff Cooke's, is endowed with power and a sense of firm direction. These qualities are allied to organisation and control. These are the solid virtues of English rugby. To say as much is often interpreted as if this is somehow to cavil about the style and as a sign of disapproval. Far from it. The team must be true to itself, to exploit its own strengths. There is an under-



'Anyone committed would insist on Guscott's inclusion'

standing reluctance to depart from them.

This reluctance is epitomised in the management attitude to two players over the years. Cooke, for his own good reasons, cast Stuart Barnes aside. The solid virtues were best characterised in Rob Andrew. The two stand-off halves differed. The team's success and Andrew's vital role in it speaks for itself. Cooke's strategy was marshalled tactically by Andrew.

For his part, Jack Rowell has cast Jeremy Guscott onto the replacements' bench. Guscott is the silkiest of midfield runners and, as he demonstrated on Saturday, he can make things happen for himself and those around him with a shimmy, a glide and a sensitive pass. Anyone committed fully to an interactive game would insist on the inclusion of Guscott. He is not a wing, though.

Might not there be a certain scepticism in the England camp anyway? What did Rowell mean when he said at the press conference on Saturday: "It is difficult to stop gifted players playing gifted football." What kind of message did he intend to convey with those words to his players in that unsteady opening period?

No. To see an interactive game in the championship this season then it was to France we needed to look. The reason is, in the main, that French back-row forwards, unlike England's, are natural distributors of the ball, not just carriers and chargers. France will avoid the rucks if they can, England look to create them. As Pierre Villepreux, the France assistant coach, said: "If you have to set up a ruck or maul, then, in a sense, the team has already failed. The ball should have been moved on."

The last point is that the players generally do not have the necessary handling and positional skills. Sadly, on Saturday, neither side possessed these qualities. The second half, error-strewn, was mediocre and fell below the requirements of rugby at an international level.

The danger for England is that they may come to believe that they are playing in a style that conspicuously they are not. It is their English virtues that need to be recognised and appreciated. McGeechan knows that the England pack will provide him with enough power to match South Africa in the set-pieces. We shall have to wait and see whether they can offer more.



Stimpson, set up by Guscott and Hill, dives over for the first of England's four second-half tries

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## Newcastle already in mourning for another title missed

### Juninho: hat-trick chance







## FOOTBALL

# Harford fails to see funny side of Birmingham blues

West Bromwich Albion 2  
Birmingham City 0

By RICHARD HOBSON

EVEN after such a sweet victory, Ray Harford, the West Bromwich Albion manager, bore the mournful look of a pall-bearer. Clad in his grey suit, he grimaced his way through the post-match press conference without encouraging conversation. Surely, though, his appearance disguised his real emotions. He must have been delighted.

At this stage of the season, Albion are neither in contention for the promotion playoffs nor imperilled at the wrong end of Nationwide League first division. With this

display, though, they sent their supporters home with hope that good times beckon in 1997-98.

The same cannot be said of Birmingham City, who are consistent only in their inconsistency. Yesterday, to use the word of Trevor Francis, the manager, they were "woeful". Nobody could have scrutinised more closely the performance than David Sullivan, the co-owner of Birmingham.

Last week, in repeating that Francis is safe in his job, he stressed the importance of the finale to this season of underachievement.

"It is vital that we demonstrate we can be promotion candidates next season," Sullivan said. Few will have been convinced by a display that

was primitive and ugly. That might have been forgiven, had it not also been completely ineffective.

Burgess and Murphy, the Albion central defenders, coped with the aerial threat of Kevin Francis, and Birmingham, with plan A, failed, found that they had no plan B to turn to. Surely a squad assembled at a cost of almost £6 million can demonstrate more ingenuity.

Afterwards, Francis was as honest as he was baffled. "I do not know how the same players who can give a performance as they did on Tuesday night, when we beat Manchester City, can play like this in the next match," he said. "It was pretty woeful, almost rock-bottom. Sometimes I feel like throwing the names into the hat and pulling 11 out. It is very, very disturbing."

The only mitigation was the loss of Bruce, the towering City captain, after 11 minutes. He was elbowing accidentally below the eye in a collision with Hunt and, in the next challenge, was caught in the same area by Taylor. Bruce will undergo X-rays today.

His loss was evident as Albion went ahead four minutes later. Abbot seemed unaware of Sneekes as he ran behind him, chasing a long pass from Agnew. His despairing challenge arrived too late and Sneekes skipped away and cleverly placed his shot beyond Bennett, the City goalkeeper.

Sneekes revelled in his freedom to run beyond the Albion strikers and played his part in the second goal three minutes into the second half. Taylor headed down Sneekes's corner and Hamilton forced the ball beyond the bodies on the line.

This week Albion hope to conclude the signing of Miller, the goalkeeper, who is on loan from Middlesbrough. Francis, meanwhile, has taken Linda Vrhutalezh, a South Africa midfielder player, on trial. On the latest evidence, even Linda Lusardi would improve this side.

## Fulham's clinical edge delivers vital victory

Leyton Orient 0  
Fulham 2

By IVO TENNANT

FOR Fulham to gain promotion from the Nationwide League third division, homely and lowly clubs such as Leyton Orient have to be beaten on their own grounds as clinically and decisively as possible. That was what occurred yesterday, even if both goals, one of them a penalty, were not scored until well into the second half.

Fulham are now level on points with second-placed Wigan Athletic. It was not much of a match, but this was the tenth away victory of the season for Micky Adams's team, and only Wolverhampton Wanderers have done better in England. Blake scored a penalty and Carpenter gained the second goal in the final minute.

After the pitch invasion at Brighton last weekend, when Orient were the visitors, Barry Hearn and Jimmy Hill, the chairman, went on to the pitch in the spring sunshine before the start yesterday, shaking hands in an appeal for peace between both sets of supporters. Indeed, there was: As for Wilkins, who bravely protected the referee from one

miscreant at Brighton, this was more an afternoon of head tennis than football. The ball was in the air far too often, and to little effect. Orient thumped it forward, often from the vicinity of left back. There is scant purpose in including a midfield player of vast international experience if he is not to be brought into play more often.

Fulham deserved to take the lead midway through the second half, if only because twice in quick succession Shearer and Naylor committed dreadfully clumsy fouls. The second of these, on Freeman, was in Orient's penalty area, and Blake struck the ensuing kick into Hyde's right-hand corner.

Orient came up with little in attack other than one drive from Channing that Walton parried instinctively. Fulham made certain of an important victory when Brooker, finding himself in some space on the right, crossed to Carpenter, who capitalised after two poor attempts at a clearance.

LEYTON ORIENT (4-4-2): P Hyde — D Chapman, M Warren, L Shearer (sub: S Wilson, T Smith), D Taylor (sub: J Baker); A Arnold, S R Wilson, J Channing, L Hodgson (sub: M Ling, 28) — C Griffiths, S Medley.

FULHAM (5-3-2): M Watson — M Lawrence, N Cusack, M Blake, D Culp, P Carpenter, S Morgan — D Freeman (sub: P Brooker, 86), C Wilkins (sub: M Thomas, 79).

Referee: D Orr

AMID a tense and uneasy atmosphere of mutual distrust and dislike, Bristol's 82nd League derby was played out at the Memorial Ground yesterday. It was not an occasion to savour, such is the antipathy — past and present — between the blue and red sections of the city. That the game went ahead and was finished, relatively skirmish-free, could be deemed a minor achievement.

Much baggage had been carried into the Nationwide League second division tussle, with the corresponding fixture at Ashton Gate in December having concluded in a punch or two short of a riot. Although City subsequently issued life bans on two dozen miscreants, they were warned by the Football Association that they would be deducted two points should their supporters misbehave again before the end of the year.

Thus, only 700 specially vetted City supporters were allowed to grace the arena with their presence. They were bussed in, crammed into a tight corner, guarded by a posse of stewards and police and then bussed out again. Undignified it might have been, but the net gain, a victory that propels City towards a play-off place, must have made it all worthwhile.

Holloway: hard-working

Entertained, though, they were not. Few were City triumphed, on a bumpy pitch and in blustery conditions, because they possessed several individuals — most notably Bent and Hewlett — who were at least able to rise above the ordinary.

"We kept our composure and discipline, which gave us the platform to build on," Joe Jordan, the City manager, said. "I never thought we were in too much danger. At this stage of the season, the result is always more important than the performance."

Rovers, who lie only three points above the second division trap door, have nobody to call on in their 1½ hours of need. Even the best efforts of Ian Holloway, their industrious player-manager, failed to inspire those around him.

City went ahead in the 31st minute, when Agostino burst through three half-hearted challenges before cleverly clipping the ball past Collett. It sparked the discovery of a group of senseless City infiltrators in the Rovers-dominated Clubhouse End. After an outbreak of sporadic scuffling, they were eventually ejected. Peace was restored.

Rovers could have equalised, when Owers was harshly penalised for handling a shot that was driven at him by Cureton from close range, but Beadle's weak penalty was easily saved by Naylor. City capitalised, in the 72nd minute, when Goater galloped through to guide in his nineteenth goal of the season.

Though Alsop headed in Holloway's late corner, it was no more than cosmetic. The damage was done. "It was nice to give our small group of fans something to cheer about," Jordan said. "Overall, I thought the Bristol public handled the situation very well." Only just, Joe. Only just.

BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): A Collett — D Priestland, White, A Tilton, G Power (sub: F Bennett, 60); M Valler (sub: J Houghton, 76), J Holloway, J Shumme (sub: J Alsop, 76), J Martin — P Beadle, J Cureton.

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): S Naylor — L Carey, R Edwards (sub: S Patterson, 46), S Taylor, J Brown — J Watt, G Owers, M Hewlett, D Bennett — P Agostino, S Goater (sub: N Nugent, 88).

Referee: C Wilkes



McMillan celebrates after trapping Taylor, the Australia captain, leg-before. South Africa need quick wickets today if they are to avoid defeat

## Waugh wrests advantage away from South Africa

FROM JACK BANNISTER IN PORT ELIZABETH

PORT ELIZABETH (third day of five): Australia, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 125 runs to beat South Africa

FEW teams have won a Test by making the biggest score of the match in the fourth innings, but Australia will do so today if they can muster the 125 runs that they need to beat South Africa and establish a 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

South Africa's best chance lies with Allan Donald, who once again bowled magnificently without luck. It is a travesty that his 34 overs in the match have produced only one wicket. He has beaten the bat at least once an over.

Conditions notwithstanding, South Africa again batted poorly. Leading by 184 at the start of play, they lost all ten wickets for 85 runs in 44 overs, and half of the top order again got themselves out. Exempt from criticism were Kirsten, bowled from around the wicket by Gillespie for 43.

Cullinan, who was given out leg-before to what television replays suggested was a no-ball, and Cronje, who was dismissed by Bevan.

Kallis was brilliantly thrown out by Blewett to start a run of three wickets in 16 balls, and two in seven for Gillespie, who had Adam Bache mis-hitting to long leg for 49. Gillespie's opening spell was 9-13-3 and, once

McGrath had Gibbs driving loosely to slip at 122 for five, the door was open for the Australia spinners. Bevan went around the wicket and won a leg-before decision with the last ball before lunch when McMillan missed an ugly pull.

In came Pollock with a runner, the plan being for him to attack while Cronje tried to stay and extend the lead to more than 300, but Cronje failed to pick half a dozen googlies from Bevan, the last of which took the edge to give Healy his 299th Test victim.

Pollock was next to go, leg-before to Warne for 17 to one

### PORT ELIZABETH SCOREBOARD

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 209 (8 M McMillan 55; J N Gillespie 5 for 64)   |     |
| Second Innings  |     |
| G Kirsten c Gillespie   | 43  |
| A M Bache c McGrath b Gillespie   | 49  |
| J H Kallis run out  | 2   |
| D J Cullinan lbw b Gillespie  | 2   |
| W J George c Healy b Bevan  | 27  |
| D J Richardson not out  | 10  |
| B M McMillan lbw b Bevan  | 2   |
| S M Pollock lbw b Warne   | 17  |
| D J Richardson not out  | 12  |
| A Donald c Warne b Bevan  | 7   |
| P R Adams c Taylor b Warne  | 7   |
| Extras (b 1, lb 5, nb 2)  | 8   |
| Total   | 168 |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-87, 2-96, 3-99, 4-100, 5-122, 6-137, 7-152, 8-158, 9-167.  |     |
| BOWLING: McGrath 13-3-43-1; Gillespie 14-4-49-3; S R Warne 13-3-15-4; B B Bevan 17-3-15-0; Warne 17-4-20-2; Bevan 13-3-18-3 |     |
| AUSTRALIA: First Innings  |     |
| M L Hayden c Cullinan b Pollock   | 0   |
| M T G Elliott c Richardson b Pollock  | 23  |
| M T G Elliott not out   | 20  |
| M F Waugh lbw b Cronje  | 20  |
| S R Waugh c Richardson b McMillan   | 5   |
| Extras (b 1, lb 5, nb 2)  | 8   |
| Total   | 76  |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-87, 2-96, 3-99, 4-100, 5-122, 6-137, 7-152, 8-158, 9-167.  |     |
| BOWLING: Donald 23-13-15-1; Pollock 6-3-8-2; Adams 4-0-5-1; McMillan 14-2-32-2; Cronje 14-7-21-2; Kallis 9-1-2-18-1.        |     |
| Second Innings  |     |
| M A Taylor lbw b McMillan   | 13  |
| M L Hayden run out  | 14  |
| M T G Elliott c and b Adams   | 44  |
| M F Waugh not out   | 44  |
| S R Waugh not out   | 11  |
| Extras (b 4, lb 2, w 1)   | 7   |
| Total (4 wickets)   | 145 |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-30, 3-415  |     |
| BOWLING: Donald 11-5-44-0; McMillan 11-3-24-1; Cronje 8-1-25-0; Kallis 6-1-17-0; Adams 8-1-29-1.                            |     |
| Umpires: R E Koertzen (South Africa) and S Venkataratnam (India)  |     |

## Pitch cover-up puts Australia in spin

FROM JACK BANNISTER

THE Australia management complained about the arrangements for covering the pitch on the first evening of the St George's Test match. It seems that they were tipped off earlier in the day that normal hessian covering underneath the plastic sheet covers would not be used.

It is on most Test grounds, and certainly was during the first Test, at Wanderers in Johannesburg. As soon as they saw the sheet covers rolled on with no hessian protection underneath, they approached the umpires and Raman Subba Row, the match referee, to complain.

Their point was that hessian absorbs any moisture created by overnight sheet covering and they wanted a dry pitch on which to bat on Saturday. A study of the rules showed that each ground authority is responsible for its own method of covering and, therefore, no instructions could be issued. Subba Row said: "The rules do not stipulate any particular type of covering and the Australian management accepted this."

"I shall make it an item in my match report to David Richards, of ICC (International Cricket Council) in London, that I believe covering should be uniform on a national, if not international, basis."

The Australians were clearly unhappy about the pitch and its behaviour on the first day, with the richly grassed

surface surprising even the local experts with its extravagant bounce and movement.

Perry McLean, the groundsman, and David Gussie, the chief executive of Eastern Province, denied that they had received any instructions from the national authority, but McLean's pre-match forecast that the bounce would be trustworthy once early moisture had dried out was wildly inaccurate.

Australia started the second dramatic day convinced that they would bat on a snakepit. Their approach was tentative, even when Pollock limped out of the match, and probably the series, after taking the wicket of Taylor in his second over.

Donald was magnificent with a scant reward of one wicket for two spells totalling 18 overs that were wonderful exhibitions of athletic and genuinely fast bowling of the highest quality. The fact that no home bowler took more than two wickets showed how Australia contributed much towards a poor performance of 98 runs scored to the loss of nine wickets in 58 overs.

The rub of the green went against them — Mark Waugh suffered a leg-before decision that, at best, was marginal. Elliott was run out after a piece of ball watching from Steve Waugh, and Bevan's duck came from a carelessly flicked leg-side stroke that gave Richardson the second of his three catches.

## Early setback fails to unsettle India

DESPITE losing Rahul Dravid to the third ball of the day, India continued to build a solid reply to West Indies' first innings score of 296 yesterday. India reached 287 for two at lunch on the third day of the second Test at Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Their hero of the second day, Navtej Sidhu, the opening batsman, was still there at the interval on 158. Sachin Tendulkar, his captain, who never looked the dominating player he can be, was on 58.

Dravid failed to add to his 57 before he was bowled by Curtly Ambrose. His innings lasted 268 minutes and 182 balls and he made a valuable contribution to the second-wicket partnership with Sidhu, which was worth 171 runs. The West Indies' pace attack all howled with good control and accuracy and India only managed to hit two boundaries, both struck by the bat of Tendulkar, in the two-hour period before lunch.

India, however, now have the initiative in this Test, thanks to Sidhu and Dravid, who frustrated West Indies on Saturday. The India supporters will now be looking for a similar performance from Tendulkar who, like Sidhu, failed to make an impact in the drawn first Test in Jamaica.

Playing on the ground where they recorded their last Test victory in the Caribbean 21 years ago, India had earlier polished off the West Indies

tail after the home team had resumed on an overnight total of 239 for seven, the last three wickets falling for just seven runs.

Richard Holder saw his leg stump dislodged by Sunil Joshi, the left-arm spinner, on 91, after an innings that lasted 239 balls and 293 minutes. Courtney Walsh, the West Indies captain, was next to be dismissed, when he was caught behind off the bowling of Saurav Ganguly without scoring.

Franklyn Rose had given able support to Holder, contributing 34 in a stand of 69, an eighth-wicket record for West Indies against India.

WEST INDIES: First Innings

S L Campbell c Prasad b Kumble 8  
S C Williams c Dravid b Kumble 18  
S Chandrasekhar c Morgan b Prasad 45  
R C Lara c Ashrauddin b Joshi 14  
C L Hooper c Ashrauddin b Kumble 40  
R C Holder b Joshi 71  
J R Murray c and b Kumble 11  
S E L Ambrose c Dravid b Kumble 21  
C A Walsh c Morgan b Ganguly 0  
P A Rose c Dravid b Joshi 34  
M V Dillon not out 2  
Extras (lb 20, nb 2) 22  
Total (2 wickets) 287  
S C Ganguly 11-5-44-0; R N Morgan 4-0-36-0; Kumble 22-8-54-1; Joshi 22-3-75-3; Ganguly 5-3-3-1

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-171  
BOWLING: Ambrose 28-6-58-2; Walsh 25-10-49-0; Rose 24-5-50-1; Dillon 21-4-53-0; Hooper 19-5-44-0; Chandrasekhar 2-0-6-0  
Umpires: L R Barker (West Indies) and S G Randall (Australia)

## Sri Lanka face uphill fight

SRI LANKA made a disastrous start to their quest for victory late on the third day of the second Test match against New Zealand in Hamilton yesterday.

Sri Lanka's chances of scoring the 326 runs required to win received an immediate setback when Sanath Jayasuriya, the opening batsman, ran himself out while seeking a second run in the second over of their innings.

Worse was to follow in the ninth over when Daniel Vettori, the left-arm spinner, bowled Hashan Tillekeratne around his legs before Sri Lanka limped to the close on 20 for two.

New Zealand were dismissed for 273 in their second innings, giving them an advantage of 325 with more than two days to play, before Jayasuriya ran himself out after turning Heath Davis behind square leg.

Simon Doull, fielding on the fine-leg boundary, ran in quickly and fired a quick and accurate return to Adam Parore, the wicketkeeper, who took off the balls with Jayasuriya just short of his ground.

New Zealand's second innings had featured half-centuries for Bryan Young, Stephen Fleming, the captain, and Nathan Astle.

Murli Muralitharan, the off spinner, took three for 62, becoming the first Sri Lanka bowler to take 100 wickets in Test matches when he bowled Fleming.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 222 (B A Young 63)

M J Horne c Kulkarni b Muralitharan 16  
S P Fleming c Muralitharan 59  
N J Astle c Mahanama b Vass 52  
C L Cairns c sub b Muralitharan 4  
T C Pearce run out 2  
D N Patel c P de Silva b Dharmasena 4  
D L Vettori b Zoysa 6  
S B Doull c Mahanama b Zoysa 28  
H T Davis not out 2  
Extras (b 9, lb 11, w 7, nb 7) 34  
Total 273

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-64, 3-108, 4-183, 5-198, 6-201, 7-211, 8-286, 9-243  
BOWLING: Vass 15-3-34-1; Zoysa 22-4-7-53-3; Dharmasena 24-5-15-2; S C de Silva 10-2-29-0; Muralitharan 26-7-62-3

SRI LANKA: First Innings

S T Jayasuriya c Astle b Davis 20  
R S Mahanama lbw b Vettori 42  
H P Tillekeratne c Young b Doull 2  
P A de Silva c Pearce b Vettori 1  
A Ranasinghe lbw b Davis 4  
H S Kulkarni c Pearce b Davis 11

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-216  
BOWLING: Doull 4-2-4-0; Davis 5-0-12-0; Vettori 2-0-4-0  
Umpires: D B Cowie (New Zealand) and Mahboob Shah (Pakistan)

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 222 (B A Young 63)

Second Innings

B A Young c Mahanama b Zoysa 62  
B A Young c Mahanama b Zoysa 62



0800 111 210



















The disabled are as skilful at martial arts as the able-bodied, says **Victoria Walker**, who tried her hand at aikido.

# Equals on the field of combat

Disability has proved to be no handicap for the students of Terry Taylor's shotokan karate schools in Kent. Whether partially sighted, blind or confined to a wheelchair, all of his students perform set sequences (choreographed) of moves with convincing poise and determination.

Dorton House, in Seal, Kent, is a school for students who are blind or partially sighted and caters from nursery age through to college education. Every Thursday evening Taylor runs an extra-curricular karate class. There are five boys in his club, aged from 11 to 14.

James Davison has all the awkwardness you would expect of any 14-year-old. Yet, when he performed a solo kata, he spun, kicked and chopped his way through the air with such confidence and grace that he seemed transformed.

The enthusiasm exuded by the group was tangible. "I want to get to black belt in at least one form of martial art," Adam Izzard, 13, said. Tracy Moses is ten and suffers from spina bifida and hydrocephalus. Despite this, she has been attending karate classes in Chatham, Kent, almost every Monday and Friday since joining the club in November.

Although she can walk unaided, she is learning the directional arm moves of karate katas in her wheelchair. She has to do physiotherapy classes once a week and already karate has helped her to improve her movement dramatically.

Scott Gillis, 13, maintains that karate has had a big impact on the way that he experiences life outside the dojo (karate classroom).

"I am getting better at looking forward rather than down, and keeping my balance," he said.

"If you are really good in some form of martial art, you are always going to feel ready, but, if you are just starting out, do not expect to turn into Bruce Lee or Jean-Claude Van Damme after just a few lessons. It is something you have to work at."

Recognising the benefits that martial arts can provide for people with disabilities, Taylor has founded an annual festival and an informal register.

The latter attempts to place individuals in touch with martial arts teachers in their areas and is achieved through Taylor's wide range of personal contacts throughout the country.

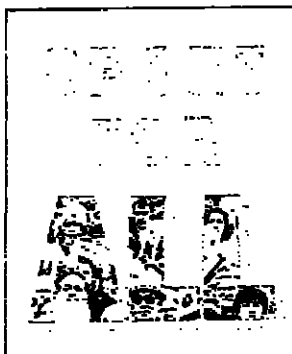
The festival this year will be held on May 15 in Gravesend, Kent. There will be eight disciplines on offer, which the public will be encouraged to sample and observe, with special demonstrations and displays.

Taylor estimates that there will be more than 300 disabled martial arts practitioners and their instructors taking part in the festival.

He enthuses over the benefits gained by anyone who practises any type of martial art.

"It is not only a wonderful way to keep fit, but it teaches valuable self-defence techniques, builds self-confidence and provides a whole bunch of new friends to socialise with," he said.

Joel Young, 11, agrees and said: "It is fun and it gives you something to aim for." Michael Miller, 11, has no illusions and said: "It is very difficult at the start." His favourite move is tobi geri — the



flying kick.

Members of Taylor's clubs are part of a growing number of people with disabilities who practise martial arts. Simon Jackson, the Paralympic judo champion, won his third consecutive gold medal last summer in Atlanta.

Lydia Zijdel uses a wheelchair and took up aikido in 1985. She did not look back, taking up karate as a second discipline. In October 1990 she began teaching people with disabilities.

In his book, *Martial Arts for People With Disabilities*, Dirk Robinson maintains that many people living with a disability can match the prowess of any able-bodied person — and even surpass their skill.

At the end of the class at Dorton House, Taylor made all the boys sit crossed-legged on the floor around the room. Those who were partially sighted had to close their eyes. With the stealth of a ninja, Taylor then crept among them tapping them on their heads and shoulders. The object of the exercise was to try to grab him as he tried to make a tap.

Their success rate was impressively high and I realised that I had witnessed a degree of skill that I would be hard-pushed, if ever able, to match.

For more details, contact Terry Taylor at the Horsted Shotokan Karate Association, 6 Bulldog Road, Lordswood, Chatham, Kent, ME5 8SJ (01634 201469).



Menacing: Michael Miller, 11, demonstrates his favourite move — tobi geri, the flying kick — "but it's not at all easy at first," he said.

## ORIENTAL MARTIAL ARTS

**KARATE** means "open hand" and originated in Okinawa. Based on blows delivered by hand, foot or knee. **KUNG FU** is a generic term for Chinese martial arts, originated in northern China and most famously adapted by Bruce Lee. More than 1,000 different types exist today — many in secret.

**TAI CHI**, full name Tai Chi Chuan, means "grand ultimate fist". Originated in China as a form of Kung Fu with fluid dreamlike movements.

**AIKIDO** was founded in Japan in the 1900s and means

"way of harmony". A defensive art where a focused practitioner can redirect an opponent's aggressive force. **JIU-JITSU** is a Japanese martial art meaning the gentle art. Employs arm locks and joint manipulation and regarded by many as a precursor of Judo and Aikido.

**JUDO** originated in Tokyo and means "gentle way". Developed as a sport based on a system of leverage techniques, throws and holds.

**KENDO** translates as "way of the sword" in Japan. Uses heavy, two-handed sword

techniques with bamboo swords called shinai.

**SUMO** contestants compete on a 15ft dirt circle and aim to make any part of opponent's body, bar the soles of his feet, touch the ground.

**TAEKWON-DO** is unarmed self-defence combat that originated in Korea featuring kicking and punching techniques.

**MUAY THAI** is the correct term for Thai kick-boxing. Fighters today wear boxing gloves and are often trained to be complete fighting machines from a young age.

## Focused on the 'way of harmony'

Aikido is a defensive art that turns an aggressor's power against himself. **Victoria Walker** reports

I hate fighting. I am not a particularly aggressive person and I shy from confrontation. I was therefore shocked to discover how much I enjoyed the physical contact of my first aikido class.

Aikido is a classical Japanese martial art. In contrast to karate or Chinese kung fu, for example, it is an essentially defensive discipline. Students of aikido are taught how to redirect the force of an attack back against the aggressor, and it is because of this redirection of energy that smaller, weaker people are able to exert control over larger, stronger ones.

There are four main schools of aikido, one of which, Yoshinkan aikido, is taught as part of the basic training of every policeman in Japan. It is also one of the classical martial arts practised by Tokyo's riot squad.

David Rubens teaches Yoshinkan aikido at the Meidokan Dojo, or school, in West Hampstead, London. Before the lesson the class devotes a short period to silent meditation. They then bow and the action begins.

We started with a series of warm-up exercises. These consisted of simple stretches that are common to most active sports, plus a few rolling and moving techniques that are more attuned to the direct needs and moves of martial arts (at this point I attempted my first forward and backward roll since the age of seven). The last of the warm-up exercises were "controls".

These loosen up the tendons in the wrists and get the systems of joints which are usually locked-in to a control position.

In the class that I watched there were 12 students, including three beginners. As Rubens demonstrated the controls at the front of the group, three of the more advanced students ran to the aid of the novices, gently positioning their hands in the correct formation to achieve the best stretch for the control. Such unbidden assistance was an example of the empathy with the needs of others demonstrated by both Rubens and the students.

Rubens demonstrated the first move with a more senior student in front of the entire class. He showed it initially as a fluid whole and then broke it down step-by-step. After several examples, we copied the move alone as if holding on to "shadow" partners. Then came the time to practise with a real body.

At this point, I felt markedly anxious. My male opponent, Nick, was bigger and undoubtedly stronger than me — when I had to grab his wrist I had difficulty in getting a good hold. I thought he looked pretty fierce, too, though in hindsight that may have been my own imagination, for he was gentle and firm and incredibly tolerant of my clumsy attempts.

At first I was the attacker and moved forward to grasp his wrist. Taking hold of the

arm I had grabbed him with. Nick used two basic pivotal movements to knock me off my balance and a kneeling motion to pin me to the floor.

He had made it look so simple that I was initially disappointed when our roles were reversed and I had difficulty in remembering which step followed which. To my horror, I found that I even developed problems in recognising which was my left and which was my right hand.

Yet, when I finally managed to complete the movement, controlling Nick's body and forcing him to the ground, I was exhilarated by a sense of achievement and a curiously calming sense of empowerment. After practising the move several times, we bowed to our partners and sat back while Rubens demonstrated a second move.

As an observer, I was struck by the beauty of the fighting moves. The aikido performed before me was an intractable combination of grace and menace. The carefully choreographed steps were precise execution. I felt drawn to the idea of being able to defend myself with grace and power.

People are attracted to aikido for different reasons. Martin Gilbert, 46, has tried many different martial arts and joined this aikido dojo because it is conveniently located close to his home. He pursues it for the exercise, discipline and philosophy it provides.

Lucy Anis, 28, manages a bookshop in north London and took up aikido two years ago. She found it quite by chance, as she was looking for Tai Chi classes. "I went the first time and quite liked it, but, by the time I had been a second time, I loved it and was hooked," she said.



The writer deflects Ali Ganchi in her first aikido class

Ali Ganchi, 18, is a student studying for his A levels. Fascinated by martial arts, he first tried karate, but found that it did not suit him. He now regularly attends a Saturday morning class and has achieved a promising level of skill in a relatively short time.

As a father of two children (with a third due very shortly), Rubens recognises the education and fun that children can get out of martial arts. As a result, he offers classes from the age of five.

It is impossible to get Rubens to talk about his own experiences as a student and teacher of aikido without him mentioning his own teacher, Gozo Shioda (who in turn was

a student of the founder of aikido, Morihei Ueshiba). He spent five years training directly under Gozo Shioda in the Yoshinkan headquarters school in Tokyo and was one of only six Westerners to become a live-in Shido'in (instructor). Such lineage shows how important tradition is within the discipline.

Japanese martial arts, until just over a century ago, were practised by samurai, the warrior class. Aikido means "way of harmony". Training in aikido differs from that of many other Japanese martial arts in that it has a deep underlying philosophy. The aim of aikido is to unify

the mind, body and energy of a person. By focusing the energy and the mind and by using the body to work with, rather than against an opponent, harmony is achieved.

This philosophy and the sense of being part of something much bigger is a powerful force in itself. For the past few days, like someone enamoured by a new romance, I have not been able to get aikido off my mind. I have been caught so many times in an apparent daydream as I re-enact moves trying to perfect them in my imagination. I am excited at the prospect of learning a whole new art and suspect that Rubens may not have seen the last of me.

### STARTING OUT

**British Aikido Board.** General secretary: Shirley Timms. Write with s.a.e. to 6 Halkingcroft, Langley, Slough, Berkshire, SL3 7AT. 01753 819086

**Meidokan Yoshinkan Aikido Dojo.** David Rubens, Studio One, 187-191 West End Lane, West Hampstead, London. 0171-328 4533

**Further reading**  
The official book of the Tokyo Yoshinkan Aikido Federation is published in Britain this month by Kodansha International. £24.00.  
*Total Aikido: The Master Course*, by Gozo Shioda with Yasuhisa Shioda. Translated from the Japanese by David Rubens. ISBN 4 7700 2058 9

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## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

## TODAY

Interims: Manganese Bronze, Tay Homes. Finals: Alexon, Argos, Asac (BSF), ASW Holdings, Bunzl, China Clay, Gosh, Harmer, Metalbox, Mountford, OI & Gas, Pearson, Spandax, TT Group, Pearson Bowden, Yorkshire Group. Economic statistics: EU finance ministers meeting.

## TOMORROW

Interims: Dorling Kindersley Holdings, IAF Group, Paterson Zochonis, Wolseley. Finals: British Assurance, Broadcastle, BSG International, Caledonia, Robey, Charter, Claremont Garments, Dairy Farm International, Delta, DFS Data & Research, James Fisher & Sons, Glynned International, Graseby, Hall Engineering Holdings, Hardy Oil & Gas, Law, Debenham Corp, Loper, Manders, Maybom Group, Mecca, Roxboro Group, Secura Trust Group, TC Group, Wassall, Watmoughs Holdings, Wilson (Cornolly). Economic statistics: UK PSBR (February), US housing starts (February).

## WEDNESDAY

Interims: Beazer Group, Brit All-croft, BZW Endowment Fund, Semple Cochran, Wew Group. Finals: Aegle Group, Bowthorpe, Broadcastle, Calm Energy, Cantab Pharmaceuticals, Dewar, Evans Halshaw Higgs, EW Fact, Exco, Har Fin, Hong Kong Land Higgs, Independent Newspapers, Kingfisher, Mandarin Oriental Higgs, Marley, Bernard Matthews, Premium Trust, Revam, Television Corporation, Trinity International Higgs, United Carriers Group, Vickers, West Group. Economic statistics: UK unemployment (February), UK average earnings and unit wage costs (January), UK retail sales (February), UK minutes of monetary policy meeting held on February 5, US consumer prices index (February).

## THURSDAY

Interims: McBride, Finals: Abbott Mead Vickers, Albright & Wilson, Airtach, APV, British Borneo Petroleum, Briton Estate, Burford Holdings, Courtauld Textiles, Datron Group, Edinburgh Oil & Gas, Foreign & Colonial Investment, Guinness, Jardine Matheson, Jardine Strategic, Keller Group, Kwik-Fit Holdings, Wm Morrison, National Express Group, Queen's Most Houses, Rugby Group, Servisair, Steel Bunt Jones, Telspac, TDS Circuits. Economic statistics: UK retail prices index (February), UK motor vehicle production (February), UK provisional M4 money supply (February), UK final M4 money supply (February), UK BSA bank lending to private sector (February), UK BSA building society net lending (February), UK CBI industrial trends survey (March), US trade deficit (January), US weekly jobless claims report.

## FRIDAY

Interims: Fortnum & Mason, Finals: Frost Group, Speciality Shops, Waco Group. Economic statistics: none scheduled.

## COMPANIES

## MICHAEL CLARK

## Pearson strategy under scrutiny



Marjorie Scardino of Pearson. The City will want to know more about future policy

PEARSON: Today's full-year figures will be overshadowed by the comments of Marjorie Scardino, the new chief executive, who makes her first appearance in the Square Mile. The City will want to question her closely on the future media strategy for the group, further disposals and even the £100 million hole that has opened up at Penguin Publishing in New York as a result of unauthorised discounting.

The results are unlikely to hold many surprises after last month's trading update that accompanied the revelations at Penguin. Pre-tax profits are expected to have grown from £235.7 million to between £242 million and £262 million, with earnings likely to have fallen from 28.8p to 25.6p.

The flurry of acquisitions and disposals during the period, including the purchase of the education publishing interests of HarperCollins for £381 million and the disposal of Westminster Press for £305 million, make it difficult to accurate forecasting. But shareholders should be rewarded with a near 10 per cent increase in the dividend to 18p.

ARGOS: There are unlikely to be any surprises in today's full-year figures in the wake of January's shock profits warning. The group has already indicated that the final outcome will be about £140 million, compared with £124.4 million last time, although some estimates are as low as £137

million. Like-for-like sales for the full year are likely to be up 8 per cent, with much of that improvement achieved in the first six months. There is expected to be a small rise in the gross margin, but a shift in costs is likely to depress trading margins.

KINGFISHER: Unlike Argos, the Woolworth, Comet, B&Q and Superdrug chain store is likely to have enjoyed 1996 when it reports full-year numbers on Wednesday. Brokers are looking for pre-tax profits of £380 million, compared with £287 million last

time. Earnings are also likely to show a sharp improvement, with 40.4p pencilled in against 31.6p last time. Last month's Christmas trading statement confirmed that the group was on course for a bumper profits improvement while, at the same time, grabbing market share across the board. B&Q will prove to be a star performer after a number of years in the doldrums. The payout is expected to grow 14 per cent to 18.5p net. But brokers will be anxious about the outlook for the current year. Trading conditions will prove tougher, with the

weakness in the French franc causing concern.

WOLSELEY: Expansion in America, which now accounts for almost half of all group profits, will provide the key to tomorrow's half-year figures from the building products supplier. The recovery in the domestic housing market and the growth in construction output should also prove helpful. The only black spot remains Europe where there is likely to be a further decline in profitability from France. Profit forecasts are pitched at about

£122 million, compared with £111 million last time. A figure of £255 million has been pencilled in for the full year.

VICKERS: Solid performances from its defence and automotive arms will be crucial to full-year figures on Wednesday. If Rolls-Royce Motors has maintained its margins during the second half in the run-up to the launch of a new range of models with BMW engines some time this year, then it will have done well. The defence division should record a small improvement in margin as deliveries of the Challenger 2 tank to the Ministry of Defence continue. The figures are also likely to be marked by a return to profits by the medical side for the first time since 1994. Pre-tax profits will have grown by about £10 million, to £85 million, with earnings almost 9 per cent ahead at 17.1p. An increase in the payout of almost 15 per cent to 7.7p is forecast.

WM MORRISON: Fierce competition in the high street will result in a lacklustre performance from the northern supermarket chain when it unveils full-year figures on Thursday. These should show pre-tax profits up just 4 per cent, from £127.8 million to £132.3 million, with the outlook for the current year likely to be even tougher. The group's performance should be marked by a slowdown in both like-for-like and new store sales, plus an increase in costs of sales. Even so, shareholders are likely to be generously rewarded, with an 18 per cent rise in the payout forecast to 1.63p net.

ALBRIGHT & WILSON: A mixed performance is expected when final figures are reported on Thursday, with any improvement in its specialities and surfactants offset by an erosion of profits at its dominant phosphates operation. Pre-tax profits are likely to come in at £65.5 million, compared with £57.5 million last time, while earnings per share should have grown 11 per cent, from 13.1p to 14.6p. The dividend should be 6 per cent higher, at 6.85p.

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

## PSBR data to set tone

BRITAIN has a heavy schedule of economic statistics this week, kicking off with February figures for public borrowing tomorrow. The market is expecting a public sector borrowing requirement of £3.9 billion, according to a consensus forecast compiled by MMS International.

This compares with the £5.8 billion repayment of borrowing in January, a bumper month for corporation tax. On Wednesday, the minutes of the monthly monetary meeting held on February 5 are released and will be closely scrutinised for any softening of Bank of England demands for higher base rates.

Also on Wednesday, February retail sales figures are released and are expected to show a rise of 0.3 per cent, considerably weaker than the 0.6 per cent increase in January. This would leave sales volumes 3.8 per cent higher than a year ago compared with a year-on-year increase in January of 4.6 per cent. These figures coincide with the latest labour market data. Unemployment figures for February are expected to show a decline in headline unemployment of 37,500 compared with January's drop of 68,000. Annual growth in average earnings in January is expected to be 4.25 per cent, the same rate as in December. On Thursday, the retail prices index for February is published. The headline inflation rate is expected to have remained the same as in January at 2.8 per cent while underlying inflation, which the Government aims to get to 2.5 per cent or less, is expected to fall to 2.9 per cent from 3.1 per cent.

February's M4 broad money supply figures are expected to show a rise in annual growth, back to 10 per cent from 9.8 per cent in January. Building society mortgage lending is expected to have risen by about the same as in January. The statistical week ends on Friday with the monthly CBI trends survey.

JANET BUSH

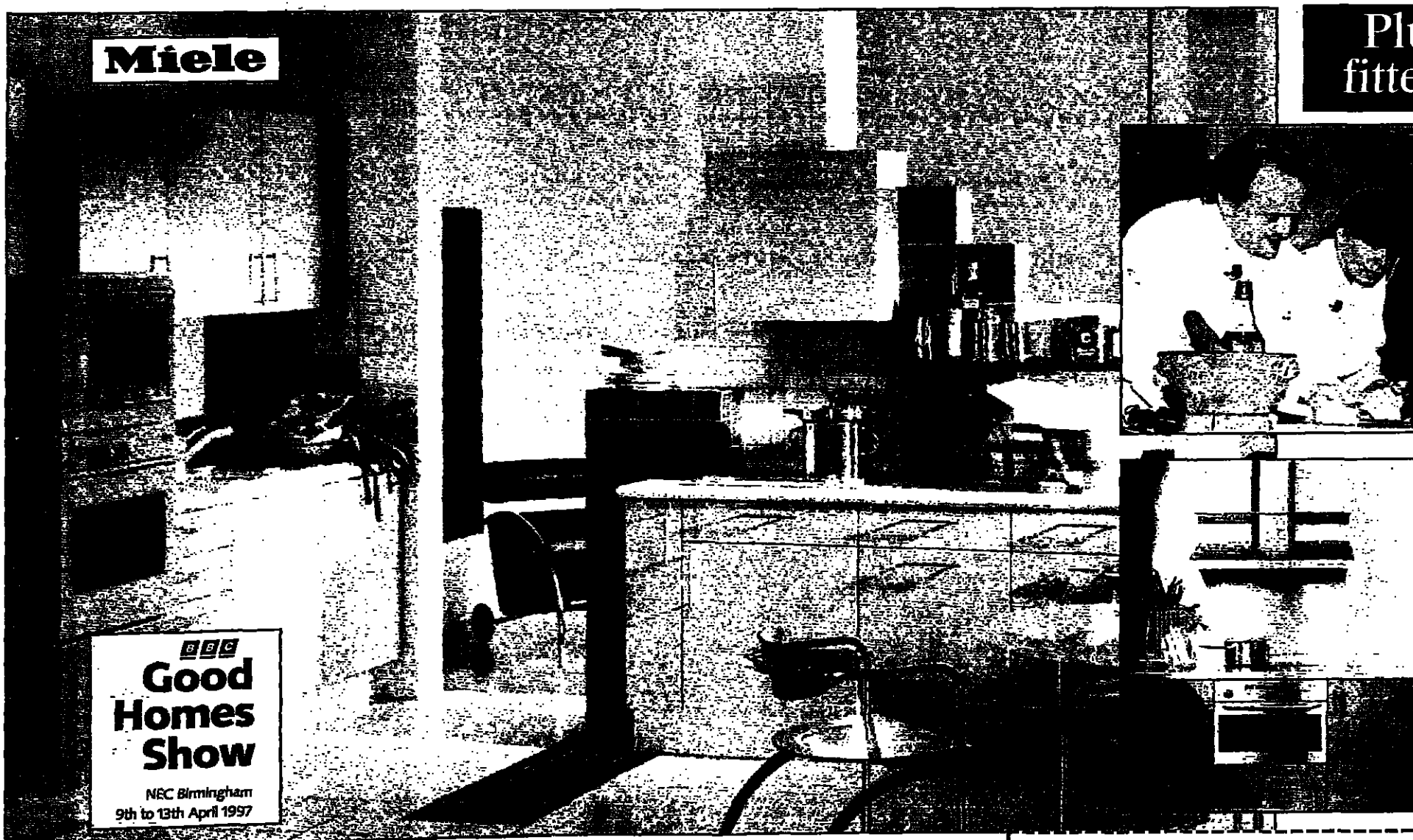
## SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Argos, Yorkshire Group, Add Surrey Free Inns. The Sunday Times: Buy Flextech, Babcock International, Johnson Group. The Observer: Sell Rentokil, Memory Corporation, Scotia Holdings. Independent on Sunday: Sell Shield Diagnostic, BAT Industries, Buy Freepages, The Mail on Sunday, Buy Ryland, IMS Group, Rail-track, Meggitt, Pearson, Vickers.

## EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

## THE TIMES

## FREE BBC Good Homes Show tickets



Plus a £10,000 Miele fitted kitchen to be won

The Times offers you a FREE ticket, worth at least £7.50, for the first ever BBC Good Homes Show. The event, at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from Wednesday to Sunday, April 9-13, will be packed with new ideas and advice covering every aspect of home decoration and furnishing. You can view the latest products of more than 150 exhibitors and get tips from experts at live demonstrations and forums.

You can also meet the teams from top BBC shows at the Lloyds Bank Insurance Direct Celebrity Theatre, including Home Front, Antiques Road Show and Changing Rooms Live. They will advise on objects from their fields which can add to your home. Tickets for these sessions cost £4 and can be pre-booked by calling 0121-767 4000.

To get your free show ticket collect three differently numbered tokens from the six appearing this week. Send them with a stamped sae, marked on the front which day you wish to attend, with the form to the address below. You will be entered in a prize draw for a fully-installed Miele kitchen worth £10,000. The kitchen has already been christened at last week's BBC Good Food Show by celebrity chefs Gary Rhodes, Antony Worrall-Thompson, Ainsley Harriott and Raymond Blanc. Plus there are pictures of them in action in the kitchen to be won.

The fully-installed Miele kitchen, as seen at the BBC Good Food Show, has stylish lined-oak fronted kitchen units, metal-framed glass-fronted units and a stainless steel roller shutter unit. The worktop, from Bald, incorporates a stainless steel onset sink with chrome mixer tap. The prize also has a stainless steel Miele single oven, microwave, four-burner gas hob and extractor canopy. For a Miele brochure, call 01235 554488.

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If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by The Times, please tick ☐

## CHANGING TIMES



**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

WILL  
threat.  
surveys



## Minimum wage no threat, says survey

By Philip Bassett  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S businesses would be unaffected by a minimum wage set at even £4 an hour, according to a survey published today.

This is higher than the level likely to be recommended by a Labour government. Business leaders have maintained that a minimum wage would be damaging to business.

In the survey, commissioned by Reed Personnel, the recruitment specialist, and covering some 970 firms, 63 per cent of companies said they would be unaffected by a minimum wage of £4, with 35 per cent saying that they would be affected. The survey suggests that firms with below 100 and below 500 employees are actually more likely than larger companies to be unaffected by a £4 minimum.

Labour has said it has no specific figure for the minimum wage, but says instead that a Low Pay Commission, made up from employers and employees, would recommend a rate.

At a minimum of £3.75 an hour, 68 per cent of companies surveyed said they would not be affected. At an hourly rate of £3.50, 76 per cent said they will be unaffected, while at a £3.25 rate as many as 79 per cent of firms said a minimum wage would not damage their business.

Ian McCartney, Labour's Chief Employment Spokesman, said today that the survey reflects Conservative claims that a minimum wage would be bad for business. "By an overwhelming margin, companies of all sizes and across all areas of the economy have rejected the Tory scare campaign, and adopted Labour's measured approach of establishing a national minimum wage through a Low Pay Commission."

The tax system needs a "radical overhaul", according to the Institute of Directors. It says "share dividends should be taxable, and capital gains and inheritance tax should be abolished, with the aim of encouraging enterprise and creating wealth. It says the proposals would mean that "when a company makes a profit, the Exchequer would only collect tax once".

# Regulators face criticism in Commons report

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE regulation of energy companies is expected to face tough criticism tomorrow in an all-party Commons report that is likely to give the Labour Party fresh ammunition for its windfall tax on the utilities.

The Trade and Industry Select Committee inquiry into energy regulation will say that the companies made substantial profits immediately after privatisation. Labour is bound to seize on the independent research as it prepares plans for a windfall tax.

Weaknesses in the regulatory process, which determines the prices that can be charged by energy companies, will be highlighted in the weighty report. The committee, under Martin O'Neill, its Labour chairman, compiled the report after months of taking evidence.

The report is expected to favour the eventual replacement of the electricity watchdog and gas regulator with a

single office covering both industries. But it is likely to emphasise the importance of firms, especially as both industries are currently preparing or implementing competition in the domestic market.

Separate criticism could be levelled at Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, over progress towards competition in electricity amid persistent fears from many companies that the ambitious programme cannot be achieved by its April 1998 deadline.

Despite growing unease among some industry watchers about the effectiveness of the RPI-X formula of price setting, the committee is unlikely to recommend a switch from the method, which was devised by Professor Littlechild after the privatisation of BT. It is expected to rule out other formulae, such as those used in the US, of setting a rate of return and profit capping. RPI-X has been

heavily criticised for encouraging short-termism. While rejecting such arguments, the committee is expected to praise a contribution from Ian Byatt, the water regulator, that companies should be encouraged to participate in a voluntary reallocation of profits.

Support for a boost to the budgets of the regulators is likely, with the committee concerned that the cash-rich companies can afford the best advice and research in their battles with their watchdogs, while the regulators' offices suffer tight finances and some defection of key staff attracted by high salaries elsewhere.

The report will be the most wide-ranging independent scrutiny so far of the regulatory process. With Labour likely to want a tougher regime should it win the election, the report is likely to form the foundation of an overhaul of utility control.

## Small firms show fall in confidence

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

CONFIDENCE in the economy among Britain's small and medium-sized businesses has waned since the autumn, apparently because of the impact of sterling's strength on those dependent on exports, according to the latest 3i Enterprise Barometer.

The latest survey, the only one which measures confidence among venture capital-backed businesses, shows that confidence has dropped back to August's level. There was a

marked fall in the number of companies expecting to increase profits from more than 60 per cent in the last survey to just under 50 per cent today.

Ewen Macpherson, 3i's chief executive, said: "Compared with a year ago, the economic and business climate remains strongly positive. However, many small and medium-sized companies are exporters, or suppliers to exporters, and their less optimistic outlook may well reflect the impact of the appreciation of sterling on margins."

On a positive note, the proportion of companies expecting to increase investment during the first quarter of this year remained strong at the highest level for nearly eight years. Respondents to the survey also anticipated that 1997 would be a good year for employment with almost two thirds expecting to employ more people by the end of the year than at the end of 1996.

The survey showed a distinct fall in the proportion of firms who are positive about a European single currency compared with two years ago.

## New era of growth forecast

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

BRITAIN'S relative decline over 20 years has been halted and its potential for economic growth is now greater than ever, according to a new report published today by the Social Market Foundation, an independent think-tank.

Nick Crafts, the author, argues that improved industrial relations, higher productivity and better investment decisions have resulted from economic reforms. These have gone some way towards repairing the damage of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s when, he says, serious economic policy errors, such as misguided interventionism, were made.

Professor Crafts takes issue with the new Labour view that low investment has been a primary cause of Britain's economic underperformance, citing instead weak productivity and a relatively weak capacity for innovation and for making effective use of technological change.



Littlewoods is believed to be looking for more than £500 million for its 135-store chain

## Littlewoods stores sale to shake up retailers

By Sarah Cunningham

THE sale of Littlewoods' stores could radically alter the balance of power among Britain's clothing retailers, according to a new report.

The survey from Verdict, the retail consultancy, coincides with rumours that both Kingfisher, the Woolworths to Superdrug group, and Tesco, the supermarket chain, are believed to be considering bids for Littlewoods.

Verdict says that if Asda were to buy the 135-store chain it would increase competition at the lower end of the market, which could hit both C&A and BHS. If Next were to buy the chain, the impact on Marks & Spencer would be significant.

Littlewoods, which is privately owned, said a fortnight ago that it would consider offers for its 135 stores and it is believed to be looking to raise over £500 million.

The report shows that Littlewoods' clothing market share has risen between 1994 and 1996 from per cent 1.6 to 1.9 per cent. Marks & Spencer's share has moved from 14.5 to 14.8 per cent and Burton's fashion multiples (including Dorothy Perkins, Burton Menswear, Top Shop, Top Man, Principles and Evans) from 4.8 to 4.9 per cent.

Next has leapt from 3.2 per cent to 4 per cent. Asda has cornered 1.6 per cent of the market (1.3 per cent) and Tesco 0.8 per cent (0.6 per cent). Among those to lose market share has been Etam which has gone from 1.3 to 0.9 per cent. BHS, which has gone from 2.9 to 2.7 per cent and C&A, which has fallen from 4.2 to 4 per cent.

The report notes that customers are willing to pay premium prices for branded items and that "the tremendous concentration, particularly in the women's wear mass market, means that life will continue to be tough for the rest of the 1990s".

## No CWS bank sale, Lanica told

By Fraser Nelson

THE Co-operative Bank has warned Andrew Regan, the 31-year-old entrepreneur understood to be preparing a bid for the bank, that any takeover approach would be doomed to failure.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), which wholly owns the bank, said it was aware of reports that Mr Regan has asked the Bank of England for permission to launch a bid, but said the bank, which has been under co-operative ownership for 127 years, was not for sale. A spokesman said: "Mr Regan would make

no headway at all in anything like this. The CWS has made it quite clear that it has no plans to sell the bank. Mr Regan can talk to anyone he so wishes, but there is simply no opportunity here."

Mr Regan, who runs Lanica Trust, has already made a £500 million proposal to the CWS for a slice of its trading operations. The CWS said it was unable to confirm whether he was now bidding to dismantle the whole Co-operative movement. Peter Rowbotham, chairman of the Co-op's retail arm, said: "Mr

Regan's tactics have shown a lack of understanding of the Co-operative movement's structure and politics. I know better than Mr Regan the views of our members, and they expect us to provide a service rather than help Mr Regan make a quick profit. As far as we're concerned, the matter is now closed and it's business as usual."

The Co-operative Bank manages assets of around £4 billion in two million accounts and its insurance arm has an income of £2 billion.



Macpherson: still positive

## ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

# More junior stocks qualify for tax breaks

TAX BREAKS offered by stocks in the Alternative Investment Market are drawing millions of pounds into the junior exchange as the end of the tax year approaches, according to traders.

More than 50 AIM companies now offer tax shelter on any profits made on the shares if it is reinvested. Traders at Winterflood Securities, a market maker in all AIM stocks, say these stocks are coming under demand from investors whose capital gains are approaching the tax threshold. Rutherford Asset Man-

agement and Cripps Harries Hall, the investment houses, claim to have designed a strategy to exploit the tax breaks offered by the market while avoiding the risks.

The two have designed the Rutherford Cripps Reinvestment Relief portfolios, which store money in the longer-established AIM companies which trade

in more reliable sectors. With a minimum investment threshold of £100,000, the trust is pitching itself at the super-rich; those who have just sold a business or have come into an inheritance.

The houses say that, with 266 companies, AIM has developed a core of reliable stocks that pay dividends, but do not rank with the speculative shares

that are expected to produce meteoric growth. Its choices include Country Gardens, which runs 30 garden centres in England, Shepherd Neame, England's oldest brewing company, Zengo, the fast-growing computer systems supplier, and VDC. The portfolio is now running into its third series, which plans to attract up to £10 million. The

pioneering series, launched last March, has grown its aggregate capital value by 16.7 per cent.

Under present rules, capital gains tax can be deferred, but not avoided. Gains made in qualifying stocks will not be taxed if they are cashed in, but will be taxed if they are cashed in. While many fear that a change of government may

mean that this benefit is ended, investors will be able to claim tax relief on any shares bought before any change is made.

The market has been steady for the past two months, with the AIM index hovering just below its high of £140.40. The index is being weighed down by the relatively sluggish performance from the market's largest stocks: Trocadero, Celtic and Ramco Energy.

FRASER NELSON

| 1996/97 | High | Low    | Mid cap (million) | Price pence | Wtd % | Yld % | P/E  |
|---------|------|--------|-------------------|-------------|-------|-------|------|
| 1500    | 100  | 11.20  | AFA Systems       | 112         | +12   | 5.1   | 11.0 |
| 1501    | 109  | 21.80  | AMCO Corp         | 151         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1502    | 61   | 89.00  | AND Int Pub       | 320         | -5    | ...   | ...  |
| 1503    | 18   | 5.00   | Abacus Recruit    | 105         | ...   | 9.6   | 20.3 |
| 1504    | 98   | 35.50  | Accor Plus        | 145         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1505    | 59   | 15.20  | Adcom Imaging     | 189         | -1    | ...   | ...  |
| 1506    | 123  | 25.50  | A de Gruyck       | 200         | ...   | 3.9   | 15.0 |
| 1507    | 7    | 10.80  | Alcan Gold        | 217         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1508    | 13   | 10.80  | Alcan Gold        | 110         | -2    | ...   | ...  |
| 1509    | 13   | 10.80  | Alcan Gold        | 42          | ...   | 0.7   | 18.3 |
| 1510    | 29   | 0.10   | Alcan Gold        | 109         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1511    | 102  | 3.16   | Alpha-Delta       | 109         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1512    | 380  | 6.54   | Am S Cr Pt        | 1120        | ...   | 7.1   | ...  |
| 1513    | 86   | 6.54   | Am S Cr Pt        | 1120        | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1514    | 121  | 6.16   | Antares           | 122         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1515    | 121  | 6.16   | Antares           | 122         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1516    | 100  | 10.20  | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1517    | 115  | 51.00  | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1518    | 215  | 33.80  | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1519    | 149  | 41.80  | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1520    | 68   | 9.85   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1521    | 6    | 6.13   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1522    | 4    | 6.23   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1523    | 165  | 1.01   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1524    | 70   | 9.63   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1525    | 107  | 3.84   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1526    | 205  | 6.00   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1527    | 187  | 17.80  | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1528    | 110  | 1.02   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1529    | 116  | 1.32   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1530    | 215  | 6.54   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1531    | 75   | 3.25   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1532    | 3    | 1.40   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1533    | 49   | 37.70  | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1534    | 108  | 8.16   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1535    | 48   | 3.11   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1536    | 57   | 2.40   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1537    | 21   | 5.96   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1538    | 650  | 101.30 | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1539    | 124  | 96     | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1540    | 5    | 8.00   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1541    | 86   | 3.07   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1542    | 170  | 15.20  | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1543    | 265  | 110    | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1544    | 30   | 8.70   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1545    | 110  | 0.95   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1546    | 35   | 12.70  | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1547    | 542  | 14     | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1548    | 150  | 0.36   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1549    | 175  | 1.15   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1550    | 275  | 0.21   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1551    | 44   | 3.90   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1552    | 185  | 5.37   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1553    | 140  | 8.08   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1554    | 345  | 190    | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1555    | 63   | 10.70  | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1556    | 102  | 63.00  | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1557    | 3    | 0.94   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |
| 1558    | 80   | 4.90   | Archer Dedicated  | 100         | ...   | ...   | ...  |



Jon Ashworth on the restoration of Sadler's Wells to financial health

# All-dancing yet unsung heroes

Professional advisers are enjoying rich pickings from the National Lottery — but not, it seems, in the case of Sadler's Wells. London's second oldest theatre is set to reopen late next year, thanks, in no small part, to the efforts of Andersen Consulting, which has guided the project from the start.

Sadler's Wells was at the head of the queue for Arts Council lottery funding and was rewarded with a grant for up to £30 million in funds. Construction and design account for most of the costs.

Little would have been achieved without Andersen, which had donated about £400,000 in professional time by January 1995 when the lottery application was submitted. There was similar largesse from Berwin Leighton, the law firm, which worked on planning applications free of charge. Clifford Chance has also done its bit.

Such generosity is not evident elsewhere, where projects such as the Royal Opera House, the Lowry Centre, and the South Bank, are generating millions of pounds in fees.

Architects, engineers and surveyors have been stung by suggestions that they are cashing in. Advisers' fees on lottery construction projects tend to average 17 per cent. Based on a range of 13 to 20 per cent, fees associated with lottery projects could easily top £800 million.

All of which makes Sadler's Wells, which recently staged an all-male production of *Swan Lake*, all the more unusual. Ian Albery, the chief executive, says Andersen Consulting and Berwin Leighton have played a vital role. He adds: "Without these two firms, we would never have got near to winning a major lottery award. This was the first big piece of funding coming out of the



Staging a comeback: Sadler's Wells, which recently presented an all-male production of *Swan Lake*, received vital yet free help from its advisers to secure National Lottery funds

lottery." National Lottery grants have sparked a construction boom across Britain — about 300 people are working on site at Sadler's Wells alone — but much of the physical evidence will not appear until 1998 and 1999.

Sadler's Wells is currently a huge hole. Only part of the old auditorium remains — a home for the "ghosts" dating to 1683, when the first of five theatres to be built on the site was opened by Dick Sadler. Andersen be-

came involved in mid-1994, long before "lottery grant" entered the lexicon. The first lottery tickets did not go on sale until November 1994. Then, Sadler's Wells was on the edge of insolvency, about £500,000 in debt, and lacking the generous grants awarded to more mainstream entities.

Hugh Morris, the Andersen partner concerned, swiftly took charge. Andersen staff were soon working with the Sadler's Wells project team on

drafting a lottery application. Mr Albery says: "It was an enormous morale booster to have someone from outside become part of the family. Many companies would not want to be associated with something that was so close to the edge."

Mr Morris says: "He [Albery] called me over and shared his dream about what could happen. It felt like something that was worthwhile doing — exciting and

innovative." Andersen personnel, he said, gained a lot from the experience. He adds: "We tend to work for very large organisations. Here, we have a whole business in microcosm. They have come out with a broadened business perspective."

Sadler's Wells made 62 of its 85 employees redundant, but a few have been re-employed at the Peacock Theatre in Kingsway — the company's temporary home until the new

theatre opens. The new building will provide about 90 jobs, and it is hoped that ushers and other part-timers will be taken back on.

The new auditorium will seat 950 or 1600 people (depending on the layout), with more for promenade performances. There will be dressing rooms for 100 artists and an orchestra pit big enough for 90 musicians. The Lillian Baylis studio theatre will seat up to 200, and enjoy greatly

improved facilities. All being well, the new Sadler's Wells will open in October 1998 — the first of the big lottery projects to reach fruition.

Andersen Consulting will get some sort of recognition — a plaque, perhaps — but expects nothing. As Mr Albery says: "A lot of consultants are making money out of the National Lottery, but there are a lot of unsung heroes. Andersen enabled this project to start and live."

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Carlton goes to Hollywood?

CARLTON Communications could soon be owner of the Hollywood studio that made *The Mask*. Word has it that the media group is involved in a consortium with Havas, the French company, to buy New Line Cinema. Owned by Ted Turner, the studio, which was itself taken over by Time Warner, is being sold in the wake of the merger. The previous frontline bidder was thought to be Chris-Craft Industries, the US broadcaster.

### Gregory's goal

AFTER three years at Profitic, Tim Gregory has quit to join Gartmore. The director and top-rated head of income funds left last Monday, forcing Profitic to delay the launch of an offshore UK emerging companies fund due for March 21. Gregory is expected to join Gartmore in mid-April as a senior fund manager within the income team. Meanwhile, he and his wife are soaking up the sun in Australia.

### Brokers' notes

A GROWING band of City whizz-kids is heading to Saint-Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe for an hour's piano tuition at lunchtime. Lucinda Mackworth-Young, a concert pianist and psychologist, has set up base in the Blackfriars church as a refuge for stressed-out City types. The daughter of Bill Mackworth-Young, a former Morgan Grenfell chairman, teaches anything from The Beatles to Rachmaninov.

Star pupil Mark Roberts, a jazz junkie and director at SBC Warburg, has so far mastered *Georgia On My Mind*. His colleague Audrey Wiggins has dragged her boss Geoffrey King, director of equities at Warburg, and her brother Tom, head of convertible bonds at Flemings, into joining.



Mackworth-Young: on song for City executives

### Hair today...

NEWS that Varga Studio, one of Central Europe's leading animation studios, is to join forces with TV Cartoons, the UK's oldest animation house, makes Peter Rona a happy man. After 20 years at Schroders, latterly as head of the New York office, Rona launched the First Hungary Fund, which owns Varga, in 1989. After studying law at Oxford, he became personal assistant to Gordon Richardson, then chairman of Schroders and later Governor of the Bank of England. Rona incurred his wrath on ploughing \$75,000 of Schroders money into *Hair*, the musical. "I liked the music and it was a successful investment," Rona says, adding that it was sold soon after.

SO, Bristol & West has sent out 580 tonnes or 7,407,000 metres of paper when laid side by side — enough to stretch more than once around the world, or the equivalent of 98 trips from Bristol to Bank of Ireland's head office in Dublin. But what to do with the transfer document once you've learnt it by heart? For each document recycled at one of its branches, B&W will make a 5p donation to "Community Forests".

MORAG PRESTON

## Test case to look at employment rights

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A TEST case that opens today in the Court of Appeal is the first to examine the rights of employees since a landmark judgment in the European Court of Justice last week.

The case, *Betts v Brintel Helicopters*, involves 66 staff who worked for a contractor providing helicopter services to oil rigs operated by Shell in the North Sea. Brintel lost one of its contracts, but the new contractor did not recruit the 66 employees involved.

The case is comparable with the appeal by a German cleaning worker that was decided in the European Court last week.

The Luxembourg court ruled that when a company wins a contract it does not have to employ the staff who previously did the work, provided no assets are transferred to the contractor. Until the ruling, companies that took over a

contract also took over responsibility for the employment rights of the workers who were carrying out the work.

The ruling threatens the rights of all workers employed by businesses that tender for work such as hospital services, local authorities and school services. But unions have argued that each transfer must be considered on its merits. Employers are also anxious for fresh clarification of the law because the ruling means that when an employer loses a contract it will become liable for the redundancy costs of the workers that it employed.

Consideration of the case is expected to be protracted as the judges grapple with the implications of the European decision, aware that their ruling will be an important comment on the European decision.

### Sema loses £45m deal with E&Y

By FRASER NELSON

SEMA, the Anglo-French computer services group, has lost its £45 million outsourcing deal with Ernst & Young after the accounting firm scrapped plans to hand over its IT department at the eleventh hour.

The two companies have agreed that the contract, described as "model" by Ernst & Young only last year, would have been flawed by a clash of corporate cultures.

Clive Williams, the Ernst & Young managing partner in charge of the handover, admitted that the company had not handled the switch as well as it could have, and conceded that this had led to the departure of key computer operators.

Three weeks ago, Lloyds TSB abandoned its £50 million outsourcing contract with Sema three years early.

### Abbey 'will not target Friends'

By ANNE ASHWORTH

ABBEE NATIONAL yesterday denied that it would pounce on *Friends* Provident if its bid for Scottish Amicable is rejected. A spokeswoman said that Abbey was concentrating on its offer for Scottish Amicable and had "no other named targets in mind".

Abbey is competing with the Prudential and AMP of Australia for control of Scottish Amicable, which became a bid target after the announcement of controversial demutualisation proposals. The interested parties submitted their final offers on Friday. These put a price tag of around £1.9 billion on Scottish Amicable but no exact figures are available as secrecy covers the negotiations.

The Scottish Amicable board is expected to announce its preferred bidder by the end of this month.

## B&B rewards loyalty

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

BRADFORD & BINGLEY will unveil details of a new loyalty and reward scheme for members tomorrow as it publishes its full-year results.

The building society has been a strong advocate of mutualism and said last year it was giving back £1 million a week to its two million saving and borrowing members. This means profits are likely to be down 40 per cent, as are

those of the Yorkshire Building Society which publishes its results today.

Other mutual societies, including the Britannia, have introduced their own loyalty schemes based on points earned.

A spokesman for Bradford & Bingley said: "We are going to hand back a lot more money to both savers and borrowers."

## The Avis Europe Share Offer

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3 days to apply

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|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
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| ShareLink                      | 0345 665665  |
| NatWest Stockbrokers           | 0800 210212  |



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Satell set for free shares

EU to iss





## Sorrell set for free shares

Martin Sorrell, WPP chief executive, will pick up free shares worth £4.67 million if the advertising group's shares stay above 230p by the end of trading today.

Mr Sorrell, who has already collected shares worth the same amount through the first tranche of his four-part incentive scheme, stands to gain a further £10.5 million if the shares continue to rise.

## Loan book development

More developments are expected this week in the bidding for the £1.6 billion Mortgage Express loan book, put up for sale earlier this year by Lloyds TSB. Interested parties are said to include a consortium made up of UBS, Home Loans and the Britannia Building Society.

Mortgage Express, established 11 years ago, is a centralised lender selling loans through intermediaries. There have been attempts to turn round the business, making it a niche market player, dealing with the self-employed and contract workers. But it does not fit within the Lloyds TSB mortgage arm, now bought together under the C&G name. A spokeswoman for C&G declined to comment.

## Cash injection from syringes

PROTOTYPE syringes that protect nurses from accidentally infecting themselves after giving injections are coming to the Alternative Investment Market via the flotation of New Medical Technology. The company hopes to raise up to £15 million.

The syringes, named Zero-Stick, carry a needle which retracts as soon as an injection is delivered, making accidental infection impossible. They are due to go on sale in the second half of next year.

The company forecasts that safety syringes will account for half of the £1.12 billion market in four years' time.

## Prestbury aim

Prestbury Leisure, a Manchester company that designs and sells sportswear and leather jackets, plans to join the Alternative Investment Market next week valued at £252 million. John Edelson and Jonathan Lyons, its founders, will share a stake worth £1.42 million after the flotation. The company is raising £770,000 to fund expansion.

# Beleaguered Shell takes stand on human rights

By CARL MORTISHED

SHELL, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, is expected to announce today a big change to its business principles, incorporating for the first time a statement of support for fundamental human rights.

The multinational company, which came under attack last year over the disposal of the Brent Spar and its activities in Nigeria, has rewritten its statement of general business principles.

The new version is expected to state that the oil company has a duty to support human rights, has proper regard for the environment and a commitment to sustainable development.

Shell was taken by surprise over the scale of the opposition to its plans to dump the Brent Spar. The company believes that its role in Nigeria, where it was accused of environmental damage, has been misrepresented and misunderstood.

Concern about Shell's activities has prompted several church-based pension funds to table a resolution to the annual meeting of Shell Transport & Trading, demanding more disclosure about Shell's impact on the environment.

The Shell business principles are designed mainly for internal use; the original document deals extensively with business ethics and prohibits the taking or giving of bribes.

However, the decision to adopt highly emotive concepts, such as human rights, into a code of conduct for its staff is likely to arouse controversy, both inside and outside the organisation.

The company was heavily criticised by human rights activists for not taking a stand in Nigeria against the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Ogoni leader. Shell claims that it voiced its opposition privately and that its business principles prohibit Shell companies from interfering in politics. However, the new document is expected to exclude that prohibition and to recognise a responsibility to express support for human rights.

Shell has been in talks with Pire, other shareholder lobby groups and various non-governmental organisations since May last year over the new principles but they are likely to fall short of demands from Shell's critics: the document will give as much weight to Shell's responsibility to its shareholders.

Shell's initiative will be closely watched by other multinationals, including British Petroleum, which is coming under fire from environmentalists for its activities in the new oil provinces west of the Sheddards. It has also been accused of links with the military in Colombia, allegations denied by BP.



Ken Wiwa, son of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer and Ogoni leader who was executed

## Japanese join the jam in direct motor cover

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

CUT-THROAT competition, an overcrowded market and falling premiums have done nothing to deter a Japanese company from launching into UK direct motor insurance this week.

The new insurer, Hastings Direct, backed by Chiyoda of Tokyo, will join more than 50 other direct insurers battling for market share in an industry plagued by falling premium rates and rising claims.

But analysts have questioned whether there is room for another telephone insurer in a saturated market. AA Insurance Services has already predicted that smaller direct insurers will merge or be taken over this year because many of them are having to write business at a loss to attract new customers.

Chiyoda, Japan's fourth largest motor insurer, has set up a UK headquarters in

Bexhill, East Sussex, and will officially begin trading on Wednesday. The project has the blessing of Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Hiroaki Fujii, the Japanese Ambassador, who will be attending an opening ceremony.

Their support is a measure of the importance of the new company in an area struggling with rising unemployment. Hastings Direct already employs more than 100 staff and plans to increase that to 300 over the next three years, which would make it the largest private sector company in the local area.

After a pilot scheme in January, its managing director, Jerry Kendall, 42, a former Lloyds syndicate underwriter, aims to spread the start-up costs, which are less than £10 million, over the next three years. He aims to attract 65,000 policyholders this

year and to have written more than £75 million of business and have 250,000 policyholders by the end of the decade.

He said: "We will be cost effective and aim to post a small profit this year."

The announcement comes only days after the UK's composite insurers gave warning that the motor insurance market was still fiercely competitive. Independent Insurance said it saw no sign of an upturn in premium rates paid by motorists, while the composite insurers said they would try to impose rate rises but could not be sure whether they would stick.

Mr Kendall said: "We believe the motor market will grow from 10 million to 20 million by 2000 and that the proportion of people buying direct insurance will shift from 30 per cent to 50 per cent of the total market."

## Forsyth awaits court ruling

By JON ASHWORTH

THE latest chapter in the Polly Peck International saga is expected to draw to a close today. Elizabeth Forsyth, freed on bail in January after serving ten months of a five-year prison sentence, returns to the Court of Appeal to hear a panel of judges deliver their ruling.

Mrs Forsyth, 60, was convicted a year ago of handling £400,000 in funds purportedly stolen from PPI by Asil Nadir, fugitive founder of the fruits-electronics group. She was released six weeks ago, after the judges hearing her appeal ruled that the five-year sentence was excessively harsh.

Lord Justice Beldam, sitting with Mrs Justice Braintree and Mr Justice Mann, made clear at the opening of the appeal that Mrs Forsyth would not be returning to prison. The former banker and one-time aide to Mr Nadir is appealing against conviction and sentence. Develop-

ments will be watched closely by Mr Nadir, who is in self-imposed exile in northern Cyprus. He fled Britain in May 1993 while awaiting trial on fraud and theft charges. Any quashing of Mrs Forsyth's conviction could imply that he did not steal £400,000 from PPI — as set out in the charge — and allow him to mount a fresh legal challenge. The Serious Fraud Office has said it will press on with the case against him.

□ The Old Bailey jury in the trial of Abbas Gokal, the former head of the Gulf Group, is expected to retire on Wednesday. Mr Gokal denies one count of false accounting and a second count of conspiracy to defraud. He is accused of conspiring with Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) officials to siphon off more than \$1.2 billion in loans.

## GILT-EDGED

## Expect spreads to narrow in any event

Does gilts' out-performance of European markets in recent weeks set the stage for a prolonged new trend, or is this no more than a minor hiccup in a period of under-performance? It will not be just a temporary feature, despite the volatility that will be introduced by the general election and by a different rate cycle from Europe.

Apart from the mixed domestic factors, the key influence on gilts and international investment behaviour will be discussions on EMU. As the start date for the euro approaches and sentiment becomes ever more uncertain, sterling assets will receive greater attention from the Far East and the US. Gilts will provide an alternative in international portfolios against EMU bloc currencies, which are likely to face an uncertain period. This will apply whether monetary union occurs on time or is delayed.

The ten-year gilt spread against bunds, which has gyrated in a range of 1-2 per cent since early 1996, is likely to move towards the lower end of this range by the end of the year once interest rate rises have been absorbed. The top end of this range should be sufficient to price in any political risk and any rate rises during 1997. Beside spread narrowing, sterling will also appreciate, despite the fall in recent days because of favourable inflation comments and the shift in rate expectations.

Any concerns that the election and the likelihood of a change in Government will increase the risk premium for gilts will be no more than temporary. Any prolonged risk premium increase due to a Labour Government has to be judged on two particular issues. First, will it lead to a notable shift in both the implementation and substance of fiscal and monetary policy? On monetary policy, interest rates will increase in any case. A Labour Chancellor will be even more keen to prove credibility in the event of the May Inflation Report reverting to a more hawkish stance on price developments in the medium term. On fiscal policy, a mini-Budget will not significantly change the borrowing requirement for the next few years.

Second, will a new Government markedly change policy on EMU? Labour is committed to a referendum and although it is unlikely that there will be any wish to be part of a single currency in the first wave in 1999, comments from leading Labour officials will be more

viewed positively by international investors. A more important influence will be the growth-inflation outlook. The economy is clearly continuing to grow at a relatively fast pace, with consumers still to benefit from tax changes in April. There is little reason for an aggressive tightening as the price transmission mechanism is different in this cycle from previous economic cycles. The experience of the US should highlight the fallacy of those arguing that inflation must inevitably rise, leading to sharply higher interest rates.

Clearly, UK rates will rise to slow the economy to ensure inflation remains close to the target in 1998. But, whereas the market is discounting an increase of 1-1.4 per cent over the next year, we expect rates to peak just 1.2 per cent above current levels. Apart from these domestic factors, the single most important issue for international investors will be the probable restructuring of portfolios to take account of a single currency.

The gilt market, with its liquidity and structure in addition to spread and currency arguments, will be ranked towards the top of any European portfolio. This will apply particularly to the Japanese and Far Eastern investor base. To some extent, £11 billion of oversterling issues so far this year has attempted to tap into this demand.

Clearly, neither the EU economic back-ground nor the internal political pressures, particularly in Germany, will be conducive to positive comments emerging either before the June Amsterdam summit, or in the run-up to the decision on participants in early 1998. Those who argue that the whole process will be delayed are missing the point. The discussion in Germany is not about a wholesale delay, but a single currency based on the core bloc in 1999. Gilts' attractiveness as an alternative to other European government bonds in global portfolios can only gain on either EMU occurring on the basis of a core bloc or on the basis of an enlarged bloc.

The conclusion has to be that international investors will look past short-term volatility and focus instead on longer-term arguments of greater market credibility, fiscal considerations and better inflation performance. Spread narrowing to 1.4 per cent above bunds by year-end will be possible.

SANJAY JOSHI  
Daiwa Europe

## EU to issue further works councils directive

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRUSSELS is to bring forward new proposals requiring companies in every European member state, including the UK, to establish works councils for consulting with their employees. Even those with as few as 50 employees could be affected.

The move, likely to be announced in May by Pádraig Flynn, the EU's Social Affairs Commissioner, is expected to infuriate Conservatives, especially Eurosceptics, and business leaders who argue that works councils damage the flexibility of companies.

The Commission is expected to introduce the proposal under the EU social

chapter. Britain's social chapter opt-out, negotiated by the Prime Minister at Maastricht, would prevent its being applied to the UK, but its provisions would apply if a new Labour government abandons the opt-out and signs up to the social chapter, as it is committed to do.

Large, multinational companies based in Britain are already having to comply with an EU directive requiring them to establish European-style works consultative councils if they have the specified number of employees in two or more EU member states. The Brussels move appears to have been spurred by the decision by Renault, the carmaker, to close its

plant in Vilvoorde, in northern Brussels, with the likely loss of 3,100 jobs.

Commission officials said it had been taken without consulting the company's workforce, as required by EU law. The Commission is expected to propose that all companies above a specified size should establish information and consultation arrangements. While the draft directive is not expected to specify that these are European-style works councils, the expectation in Brussels is that works councils will be adopted and introduced. The Commission is under pressure from the European Parliament and elsewhere to set it at 50 employees.



Pádraig Flynn is expected to announce the plans in May

## Payment of Dividend

The 43rd Annual General Meeting of our shareholders passed the resolution to pay a dividend for the fiscal year 1995/96 of DM 8.00 per share of DM 50.00 par value.

Payment will be effected against presentation of coupon No. 9.

Payment on DM 10.00 Deposit Certificates will be effected at the rate of DM 1.60 against presentation of coupon No. 36.

Both payments are subject to deduction of 26.875 % of German Withholding Tax (including solidarity surtax). United Kingdom Income Tax will be deducted at the rate of 5 % unless claims are accompanied by an affidavit. German Withholding Tax exceeding 15 % is recoverable by United Kingdom residents. The Company's United Kingdom Paying Agents will, upon request, provide the appropriate form for such recovery.

Paying Agents in the United Kingdom are: SBC Warburg, N.M. Rothschild & Sons.

The net amount of dividend in respect of the DM 50.00 shares is payable at the rate of exchange on the day of presentation.

Claims concerning DM 10.00 Deposit Certificates should be lodged at National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR, on special forms obtainable from that Office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in Space No. 36 provided on the back of the certificate. All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificates for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

The net payment in respect of DM 10.00 Deposit Certificates will be made in sterling at the rate of exchange on or shortly after the due date.

Duisburg, March 1997

Board of Management



THYSSEN AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

### NEXAL

(c) Characterised by the imposition of servitude as a penalty on a defaulting debtor. Roman law, from the Latin *nexus* or *nexum*, a bond or obligation. "It is probable that in early times plebeian law recognised no debt except that created by the nexal contract."

### PIASSABA

(a) A stout woody fibre obtained from the leaf-stalks of two Brazilian palm-trees, *Attalea funifera* and *Leopoldinia Piassaba*, and imported for the manufacture of coarse brooms, brushes, etc. 1858: "That fibre, resembling whalebone, called in commerce Piassaba fibre. Monkey Grass or Para Grass."

### NIMMING

(b) Taking bribes, or consuming. From the common Teutonic verb *nim* to take. "Those Nimming Neds, and Crook-finger'd Jacks of the typographical Tribe."

### PALKEE

(a) A palanquin, or covered litter or conveyance, usually for one person, used in India and other Eastern countries, consisting of a large box with wooden shutters like Venetian blinds, carried by four or six (rarely two) men by means of poles, projecting before and behind. From the Portuguese and East Indian vernacular. "The greater nobility are carried in a palkee, which looks very like a hammock fastened to a crooked pole."

## SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Rxc1 and if 2 Qxc1 Qxc2 is mate while 2 Rxc1 Nf3 wins the white queen.

## TOURIST RATES

|                 | Bank Buys | Bank Sells |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Australia \$    | 2.09      | 1.93       |
| Austria Sch     | 20.05     | 18.55      |
| Belgium Fr      | 56.84     | 54.54      |
| Canada \$       | 2.279     | 2.119      |
| Cyprus Cyp£     | 0.842     | 0.787      |
| Denmark Kr      | 10.91     | 10.11      |
| Finland Mk      | 6.67      | 6.02       |
| France Fr       | 9.54      | 8.89       |
| Germany Dm      | 2.86      | 2.85       |
| Greece Dr       | 444       | 418        |
| Hong Kong \$    | 12.97     | 11.97      |
| Iceland         | 120       | 100        |
| Ireland Pt      | 1.07      | 0.99       |
| Israel Shk      | 5.86      | 5.01       |
| Italy Lire      | 2626      | 2651       |
| Japan Yen       | 210.90    | 194.90     |
| Malta           | 0.652     | 0.597      |
| Netherlands Gld | 3.198     | 2.968      |
| New Zealand \$  | 2.42      | 2.20       |
| Norway Kr       | 11.44     | 10.64      |
| Portugal Esc    | 203.00    | 204.50     |
| S Africa Rd     | 7.62      | 6.82       |
| Spain Pta       | 241.00    | 224.00     |
| Sweden Kr       | 12.87     | 12.07      |
| Switzerland Fr  | 2.45      | 2.27       |
| Turkey Lira     | 210.500   | 195.500    |
| USA \$          | 1.690     | 1.590      |

Rates in small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday

## CHANGE ON WEEK

### THE POUND

US dollar  
1.6012 (-0.0040)  
German mark  
2.7212 (-0.0378)  
Exchange index  
97.2 (-0.9)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share  
2930.2 (+9.9)  
FTSE 100  
4424.3 (+4.0)  
New York Dow Jones  
6935.46 (-65.43)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave  
17923.64 (-275.10)

Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 9 January, 1997 NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable on or after 17 March, 1997.

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Gross Distribution per unit  | 1.92500 Cents |
| Less 15% USA Withholding Tax | 0.28875 Cents |
|                              | 1.63625 Cents |
| Converted at \$1.625         | £0.01006923   |

Claims should be lodged with the DEPOSITARY, National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on special forms obtainable from that office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Dated 17 March, 1997







# Little women, ladies in waiting, girls on top

There is a gender paradox about television and it was pointed out by Janet Street-Porter at the weekend. If you look at the best comedies of recent times, which include *Men Behaving Badly* and *One Foot in the Grave*, the key to the hilarious awfulness of their male characters is that they are weak and silly, traits which are thrown into relief by the behaviour of the women characters, who despair with dignity.

Clearly the viewing public, including men, accept this portrayal as reflecting something of their own experience. Men generally agree that women have more common sense, behave with more maturity and have a greater sense of responsibility.

These might be regarded as important characteristics in, say, a television executive, yet nearly all of that breed are men. But Street-Porter did not quite complete the point. Men are happy to commis-

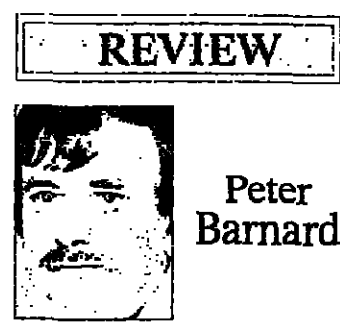
sion comedy series in which their gender is made to look ridiculous because they have the self-confidence born of holding power. Secure people can afford to laugh at themselves.

A Night In With The Girls (BBC2, Saturday and Sunday) was an interesting if overlong double-header about women in television. From the early postwar days to the present, in that time, more has changed on the sunlit surface than in the underlying rock strata.

Street-Porter, Esther Rantzen, Anna Ford, Joan Bakewell (who all spoke in the programmes) and others have become household names as screen personalities, yet in recent times there has not been a woman as powerful in the executive corridors as Grace Wyndham Goldie 40 years ago. Producers such as Verity Lambert and writers such as Lynda La Plante hold considerable sway, but the territory where schedules are

made remains under male control. And under male patronage, in all senses of the word. When Goldie moved from radio to television the team around her was known as "Grace's boys". Rantzen recalls how her own team at *That's Life* became "Esther's boys", yet no such epithet is applied to male-run departments. Rantzen made the related point that when *Spitting Image* wished to show Margaret Thatcher's dominance, her puppet was dressed in a man's suit.

However, there is an incriminating downside to every argument. Both Goldie and Rantzen did tend to surround themselves with men, leaving them open to the charge that they did little to promote the cause of women other than themselves. But television's treatment of women has improved a lot: Sylvia Peters, a continuity announcer from the 1950s, recalled how, when she



Peter Barnard

married a floor manager, the couple were given a week's wedding leave... but each was given a different week.

The best drama of the weekend had a strong woman and indeed a fictional, male BBC executive who was shown briefly listening to the corporation's head of gobbledegook, *Family Money* (Channel 4), a four-part serial which began last night, had me riveted from the

start, even though I was close to the end of part one before a character inadvertently explained what the piece was all about. "The point is," she said, "it is entirely her own or is it family money she intends to throw about? Well, that's the point." Oh, I see.

The woman throwing money about is Fran Pye, brilliantly played by Claire Bloom. Pye is a gentle matriarch who has gone a bit miffy in the head, having been mugged while trying to save a man from being beaten to death after a car accident. Therefore one strand of the plot is to do with the widow of a diplomat, selling her house and the offspring wondering if they might get a slice of the proceeds. The other strand concerns Fran's gradual recall of the mugging: is that chap living on a canal boat at the back of her home the one who hit her?

*Family Money* is based on Nina Bayden's book. Both the adapta-

tion by Ruth Carter and the direction of Renny Rye have a rhythm which holds the attention and the acting is first-rate from top to bottom. Bloom stands out because she is so assured, such a screen presence. She won a Bafta for her performance in the BBC's *Shadowlands* and will be a candidate again after this.

My heart sinks when something turns up described as a "feel-good fantasy" but alliterative type should not put us off *Early Edition* which arrived with a pilot episode on Sky 1 on Saturday (it is already on TV). *Early Edition* is that rare bird, a good show based on a daft idea: examples of the reverse are easier to find.

The programme is American and concerns a young broker in Chicago who gets a copy of the *Sun-Times* delivered to his door every day by a cat. It is not today's

edition, but tomorrow's. Having this afternoon's racing results this morning may be a licence to print money but Gary Hobson (Kyle Chandler) soon discovers that the advantage has the potential for nightmares. There are elements of *Groundhog Day* and *Back to the Future*, among countless other antecedents, but *Early Edition* is good fun in its own right.

A final word for Comic Relief (BBC1 and BBC2, Friday). I grazed here and there rather than munching the hole field and thoroughly enjoyed *Prime Cracker* in which Robbie Coltrane and Helen Mirren spoofed Fitz and Tension in a mini-drama cum song and dance act. But quite why *Comic Relief* chooses to risk soiling so much splendid work by introducing adolescent smut, albeit late in the evening, is beyond me. Poverty and malnutrition should embarrass us; there is no need for the means of their relief to do so.

## REVIEW

### CHOICE

Ray Mears's World of Survival

BBC2, 8.30pm  
The "wilderness expert" in Western Samoa this week but not to celebrate that tiny country's centenary, however, on the rugby field. Mears is concerned with more basic things, such as finding food and building shelters. Anybody who is likely to appear on *Desert Island Discs* in the near future should tune in and take note for here are perfect answers to those inevitable questions about catching fish and building shelters. The Western Samoans are not above using chainsaws and electric ovens when it suits them but mostly they rely on the traditional ways which have served them well for centuries. Here are step-by-step guides to making a house, a raft, a canoe, a log to produce a canoe and wrapping a stone in leaves to catch an octopus.

Cutting Edge: Jilted

Channel 4, 9.00pm  
Once again there is no shortage of ordinary people willing to face the cameras and relive some of their most embarrassing moments. Tonight's subjects have all been jilted and it is a most peculiar experience that they might think. Poor Chris was told by his bride-to-be, Fiona, on the morning of the wedding that she could not go through with it. He took an overdose and spent what would have been the first night of his honeymoon in hospital. Nobody else in the film reacted that badly but there is plenty of heartache on display, even after the passage of many years. Dorothy was engaged to a French sailor, whom she first met as a pen friend at school. The wedding was set for April 1947 but he failed to show and she never saw him again. We follow her to France as she visits his grave and tries to discover why he let her down.

This Life

BBC2, 9.45pm  
The drama about young flat-sharing lawyers who spend more time in the bedroom than the courtroom returns for a second series. The show has been much praised for its unflinching portrayal of twenty-something angst, though this lot seem to have more of their share of sexual hang-ups. As we renew acquaintance with Abby, Ego, Anna, Miles and Warren, it is of how little has changed. Like all soap operas, *This Life* has the knack of spinning out storylines almost to infinity. At this rate the fatuities will still be trying to resolve their relationships well into the 21st century. By then it will be time for John Major's exciting tax-pensions scheme, the Labour equivalent, though our lawyers will probably have made so much money that they will not need to depend on it.

Walden on Callaghan

BBC2, 11.15pm  
Brian Walden's closely-argued assessment of the last Labour Prime Minister is based on a paradox. It was James Callaghan's supposed political strength, his ability to understand and deal with the needs of others, that proved to be his downfall. Walden traces the theme back to the poverty Callaghan experienced during his childhood. This made him see the union movement as a struggle of the downtrodden against exploitation and, in later years, to be fiercely protective of union power. Walden argues that the crucial year in Callaghan's career was 1969, when he opposed *In Place of Strife*. This gave the unions the signal that they could rely on him as an ally and led to the winter of discontent that swept Labour from power. The irony was that in contributing to the defeat of Callaghan, the unions ushered in Margaret Thatcher.

### HTV

6.00am GMTV (6456746)  
9.25 Chain Letters (1) (4384098)  
9.55 Regional News (1) (5176185)  
10.00 The Time, The Place (7) (71746)  
10.30 This Morning (49092974)  
12.20pm Regional News (1) (7149892)  
12.30 News (1) and weather (6438655)  
12.55 High Road (1) (643456) 1.25 Home and Away (1) (11503072) 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (1) (11503072) 2.20 Savannah (1) (6636185)  
3.20 News (1) (6351271)  
3.25 Regional News (1) (7701712)  
3.30 Tots TV (5511861) 3.40 Rainbow Days (5512814) 3.50 Gooly (7416497) 4.05 Sooty's Amazing Adventures (2323814) 4.20 Snap (1) (1040456) 4.45 Art Attack (1) (5088543)  
5.10 Sorted: Family Life New series of the magazine for teenagers (5233658)  
5.40 News (1) and weather (506892)  
6.00 Home and Away (1) (380307)  
6.25 HTV Weather (266388)  
6.30 HTV News (1) (307)



Judith Chalmers visits Jordan (7pm)

7.00 Wish You Were Here? Includes the top three holiday destinations chosen for the Tourism for Tomorrow awards. Plus, Judith Chalmers visits a historical farming village in Jordan which has been restored by locals. Sheryl Simms discovers some of the lesser-known delights of Majorca and John Carter travels through Acapulco and Mexico City (1) (4727)

7.30 Coronation Street: Fraser offers Liz the chance to become a entirely new life. Tricia confirms Jack's suspicions with a heart-felt confession (1) (291)

8.00 World in Action: Hard-hitting investigative reports on topical issues (1) (3475)

8.30 Kavanagh QC: Ancient history A highly respected family doctor is prosecuted for his alleged involvement in Nazi war crimes during the Second World War (1) (72901)

10.00 News (1) and weather (46017)  
10.30 Regional News (1) (662384)

10.40 Nash Bridges: A bus transporting a group of prisoners to court is hijacked in downtown San Francisco (1) (18024)

11.35 So You Think You're Irish: Barry Murphy introduces stand-up routines and sketches performed by top Irish comedians in a star-studded charity gala. The featured acts include Ed Byrne, Brendan O'Carroll, Owen O'Neill and Dylan Moran, plus a special item by the writers of *Father Ted* (86720)

1.00 Not Fade Away (46789) 2.00 Planet Rock Profiles (60031) 2.30 Football Extra (7002012) 3.15 Club Nation (1) (751498)

4.15 Sound Bites (19241654) 4.30 World in Action (1) (190501) 5.00 Coronation Street (86962) (1) (7) 5.30 News (1) (55789)

### CENTRAL

As HTV West except:  
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6463456)  
1.50 Blue Heelers (6103948)  
2.45 Breakaways (5931291)  
2.50-3.20 High Road (5819104)  
3.10-3.40 Shortland Street (5233659)  
3.45-4.00 Central News (737253)  
11.35 So You Think You're Irish (877307)  
12.55am Not Fade Away (5505073)  
1.55 Planet Rock Profiles (8626273)  
2.30 Stand and Deliver (4551789)  
4.00 Central Jobfinder '97 (1166944)  
5.20 Asian Eye (8058031)

### WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:  
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (7148982)  
12.55-1.25 Gardener's Diary (6463456)  
1.50 Ruth Meets the Entertainers (11503017)  
2.20 A Country Practice (2062659)  
3.10-3.20 Breakaways (1084630)  
3.10-3.40 Home and Away (5233659)  
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (80949)  
10.30 Westcountry News (967776)  
10.45-11.40 Nash Bridges (192123)

### MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:  
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6463456)  
1.50 Getaways (11503017)  
2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (6636185)  
3.10-3.40 Home and Away (5233659)  
6.00 Meridian Tonight (727)  
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (307)  
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (967776)  
10.45-11.40 Nash Bridges (192123)  
5.00am FreeScreen (86692)

### ANGLIA

As HTV West except:  
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7167017)  
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6463456)  
1.50 Blue Heelers (6187901)  
2.50-3.20 Jungle on Your Doorstep (5819104)  
3.10-3.40 Shortland Street (5233659)  
6.23 Anglia Weather (267017)  
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (737253)  
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (415388)  
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (967776)  
10.45-11.40 Nash Bridges (192123)

### S&C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (51720) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (17678) 9.00 Bewitched (58494) 9.30 Yagellon (100974) 12.00 Right to Reply (36630) 12.30pm Ellen (63272) 1.00 Slot Meltrith (10765) 1.30 Film: The Man from Colorado (1949) with Glenn Ford, William Holden and Ellen Craig. The tale of a brutal fight (5519340) 3.20 Fresh Pop (1515443) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (185) 4.00 Fifteen-40 One (920) 4.30 The Lost Gardens of Heligan (104) 5.00 5 Pump (5833) 5.30 Countdown (458) 6.00 Skyway (604039) 6.00 Heno (36182) 6.35 Jazzy (27378) 7.00 Robby's Cwm (478456) 7.25 Y Byd Ar Bedwar (407920) 8.00 Ma' Ifan 'Ma (1017) 8.30 Newyddion (7104) 9.00 I Dot (9748) 10.00 Sgorio (2633) 11.00 NBA Raw (58714) 12.00 Film: Closing Numbers (1953) with Jane Fonda, Faye Dunaway and Tim Woodward. Contraband drama (426878) 1.55am Dhwedd (5318863) 4.00 Yegollon (420944) 5.35 Dhwedd (8630234)

### CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (51720)  
7.00 The Big Breakfast (17678)  
9.00 Bewitched (1) (58494)  
9.30 Schools (1) (100974) Summer Term Preview 9.45 Book Box (1) 10.00 Sign Two Science (1) 10.15 Learn Sign Language 10.20 Place and People (1) 10.40 The English Programme 11.05 Encyclopaedia Galactica 11.15 The Mix (1) 11.30 Rat-A-Tat-Tat 11.45 Living and Growing (1)  
12.00 Right to Reply (1) (36630)  
12.30pm Baby It's You (2) (1) (63272)  
1.00 Ellen (1) (10765)  
1.30 Pete Smith Specialities (b/w) (83278340)  
1.45 Kentucky (1948, b/w) with Loretta Young, Richard Greene and Walter Brennan A romantic tale of horseracing folk. Directed by David Butler (1) (1958235)  
3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (185)  
4.00 Fifteen-40 One (1) (920)  
4.30 Countdown (1) (104)  
5.00 The Montel Williams Show (1) (5833)  
5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (456)  
6.00 The Cosby Show Sitcom (1) (368)  
6.30 Hollyhocks Teen Soap (1) (949)  
7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (168494)  
7.55 Black Holes of Science in the first of a new series Professor Steve Jones, a geneticist, asks why babies are born so young and incapable (185494)  
8.00 The Secrets of the Pharaohs: An Encounters documentary: following a research team from Brigham Young University, Utah, as they examine mummies (1) (1) (9882)



Abandoned at the altar (9.00pm)

9.00 Cutting Edge: Jilted Eight people profoundly affected by being left at the altar (1) (9748)

10.00 Dark Skies: Offbeat science fiction drama series (1) (2633)

11.00 NBA Raw Basketball (97814)  
12.00 For the Love Of... Jon Ronson meets six ghost hunters (1) (7586)

1.00am Frontline: Animal Research (1) (1) (849147)  
1.45 Lost Animals: The Caribbean Monk Seal (3663789)  
1.50 Angels of Mercy? Animal rights' activists (1) (1) (8467383)  
2.20 Lost Animals: The Moorish tree snail (8146079)  
2.25 Secret Imperative: Human sexuality (1) (1) (8485296)  
3.25 Lost Animals: Burchell's Zebra (7334437)  
3.30 The Grampian Sheepdog Trials (1) (67760)  
4.00 Schools History in Action (420944)  
5.35 Terrytoons (8630234). Ends at 6.00

## For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

### SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (430868) 9.00 Pledge and Kathie Lee (5623) 10.00 Another World (56491) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (56188) 12.00 Open Window (56233) 1.00pm Gomer Pyle (12921) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (10251) 3.00 Jerry Jones (20171) 4.00 Oprah Winfrey (18104) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (6104) 6.00 Star Trek: Voyager (2494) 6.30 Married... with Children (2746) 7.00 The Simpsons (63830) 7.30 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 8.00 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 8.30 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 9.00 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 9.30 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 10.00 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 10.30 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 11.00 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 11.30 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 12.00 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 12.30 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 1.00 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 1.30 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 2.00 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 2.30 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 3.00 The Simpsons: A Special (63830) 3.30 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STEWART GOLDSTEIN

**BY FRASER NELSON**

While Stagecoach has one of the highest profiles of the new rail operators, it is one of the least active. After winning the South West Trains franchise over a year ago, it failed in every other one of its bids apart from the Isle of Wight.



Piers and peers: Coutts and Co, the Queen's bank, opens its first office on the South Coast tomorrow in Bournemouth. Richard Horder, the branch's manager, relaxes on the beach

**BY ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT**

There is no suggestion at present that Mr Papouis, who left NatWest Markets last December and who subse-

Any final decision to take on a NatWest investigation, in what is an already overcrowded caseload, will be taken by George Staple, director of the SFO. On the civil side the NatWest affair is being jointly investigated by the Bank of England, which is the prudential supervisor of NatWest.

If the SFO does adopt the NatWest case an experienced in-house lawyer will be assigned to head the investigation with back-up from forensic accountants and financial investigators.

But *The Times* has learnt, however, that almost all of the unpaid bonuses, except that of Mr Owen, has been clawed back from just two senior executives. These are believed to be Jean François Nguyen, head of debt derivatives, and Christophe Lanson, head of interest rate risk management, both of whom have been suspended during the inquiry.

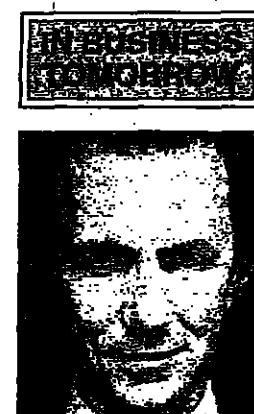
**By Robert Miller**

The Metropolitan Police Company Fraud Squad has opened a file on the personal pensions mis-selling scandal. However, a well-placed source at Scotland Yard said this weekend that the investigation was "in its very early days

More than 600,000 victims were wrongly advised to leave generous occupational schemes or not to join them in the first place, including police officers, nurses, firefighters, miners and public sector workers.

BY FRASER NELSON

Howden last returned flat interim profits of £11.1 million, after a £600,000 hit from the the strength of sterling. It is expected to return £33.5 million for the full year to April, against the £42.9 million it made last time.



**ANATOLE KALETSKY**  
examines the link  
between the  
economy and the  
general election

**By ROBERT MILLER**

## Row del

work of 30 billion. Sir Tim, however, can also boast access to most heads of state around the world, including Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President, who owes much of his re-election victory to Chime. The speculative froth in the PR market has been given added impetus by last month's stock market flotation of Citigate.

**BY MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT**

Others to go ex the dividend on Monday include BAT Industries 20p net (£17.4 billion), BTR 7p (£11.83 billion), Cadbury Schweppes 11.8p (£5.45 billion), GKN 16.9p (£3.19 billion), Glaxo 22.5p

represents the US book trade, is claiming that discounts given by Pearson to early-paying bookshops discriminated against smaller sellers.

**Companies, page 41**

**BY PHILIP BASSETT**  
**INDUSTRIAL EDITOR**

The publication of figures showing trends in unemployment was suspended in October after the introduction of the Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA), the replacement for unemployment benefit. However, ministers want to make public in

Officials in the ONS, and in rival Whitehall departments, have been work-

The unemployment trend figures are viewed as vital in the City, where the actual changes in the number of people out of work and claiming benefit tend to be measured against the expected trend, with markets going up or down accordingly.

[illegible]

No 1043

**ACROSS**

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 4 Assertion: maxim (6)               | 1 Contrivance (6)                       |
| 4 Self-assurance (6)                 | 2 Severely rebuke, punish (8)           |
| 8 Glass medicine-holder (4)          | 3 Creator (8)                           |
| 9 Suicide (pilot) (5)                | 5 Pagan woman officiant (9)             |
| 10 Purgation of emotions (9)         | 6 By mouth (4)                          |
| 13 Track down: strap for horse (5)   | 7 Simple task: light wind (6)           |
| 16 Untrue (5)                        | 11 Offended, insulted (9)               |
| 16 Be profane: promise (5)           | 12 Soothing ointment (5)                |
| 18 Go past (target, destination) (9) | 14 (Vehicle) fitted with protection (8) |
| 21 Fulfilment (8)                    | 16 Wave-rider (6)                       |
| 22 Journey: stumble (4)              | 17 Insensible state (6)                 |
| 23 Dwell (6)                         | 19 Cattle-farm (US) (5)                 |
| 24 Obstruct: nearer the back (6)     | 20 Agitation (over trifles) (4)         |

**SOLUTION TO NO 1042**

ACROSS: 1 Test tube 5 Find 8 Balloons 9 Spar 11 Junta  
12 Quarry 13 Gambit 15 Dollop 18 Synonym 19 Ample 21 Rite  
22 Antifer 23 Warm 24 Jamhoree


DOWN: 1 Toby jug 2 Salon 3 Two Nations 4 Bunker 6 Imperil  
7 Darcy 10 Out on a limb 14 Monster 16 Precede 17 Omeria  
18 Surry 20 Prior

[illegible]

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